



SaRS  
Making the world safer  
and more reliable for  
everyone

# SAFETY & RELIABILITY SOCIETY AND WSP

## INSPIRING PEOPLE ABOUT CAREERS IN ENGINEERING

BY  
BECKIE FAULKNER, WSP  
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SEYI WELI, SARS

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14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

The Safety & Reliability Society is a Licensed Member of the  
Engineering Council for CEng and IEng Professional Registration

**SaRS** SAFETY  
AND  
RELIABILITY  
SOCIETY

# Programme

YOU CAN  
RECORD THIS  
SaRS ACTIVITY  
AS CPD

click to find  
out how

SaRS SAFETY  
AND  
RELIABILITY  
SOCIETY

- Introduction
- Presentations:
  - Our Commitment to inclusion and belonging – Beckie Faulkner, WSP
  - Inspiring young people about careers in engineering – Moira Shaftoe, EngineeringUK
  - Professional Registration and CPD – a SaRS perspective - Seyi Weli, SaRS
- A short Q&A session will follow each presentation
- SaRS Information
- Feedback

Note: the Webinar is being recorded. The recording will be available for download from the SaRS website – more details on how to access the recording will be given at the end.



SaRS SAFETY  
AND  
RELIABILITY  
SOCIETY



# OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION AND BELONGING

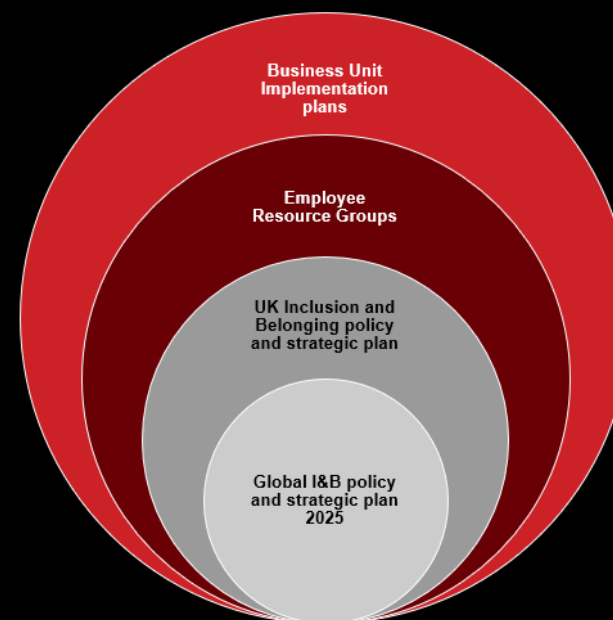
**SAFETY AND RELIABILITY SOCIETY**  
Presented by Beckie Faulkner | May 2025



## Inclusion & Belonging

**WSPs long term Inclusion and Belonging vision is to promote an inclusive mindset:**

- Fostering a trusting workplace
- Speaking up
- Managing fairly
- Growing stronger together

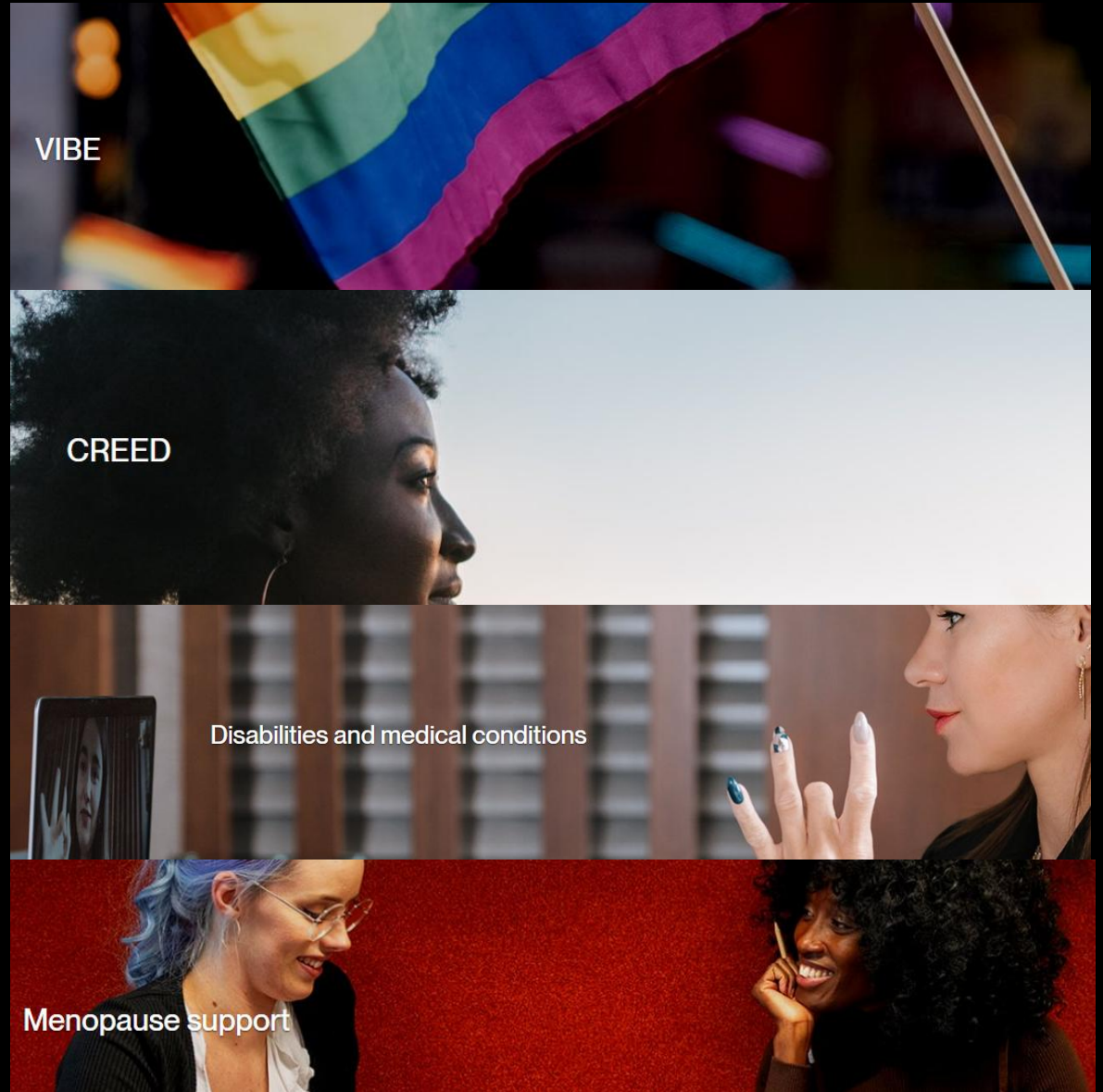




# Employee Resource Groups

## Employee Resource Groups:

- VIBE
- CREED (Inc. Muslim network and Asian network)
- Gender Committee
- Menopause Support
- Disabilities and Medical Conditions
- Neurodiverse Community



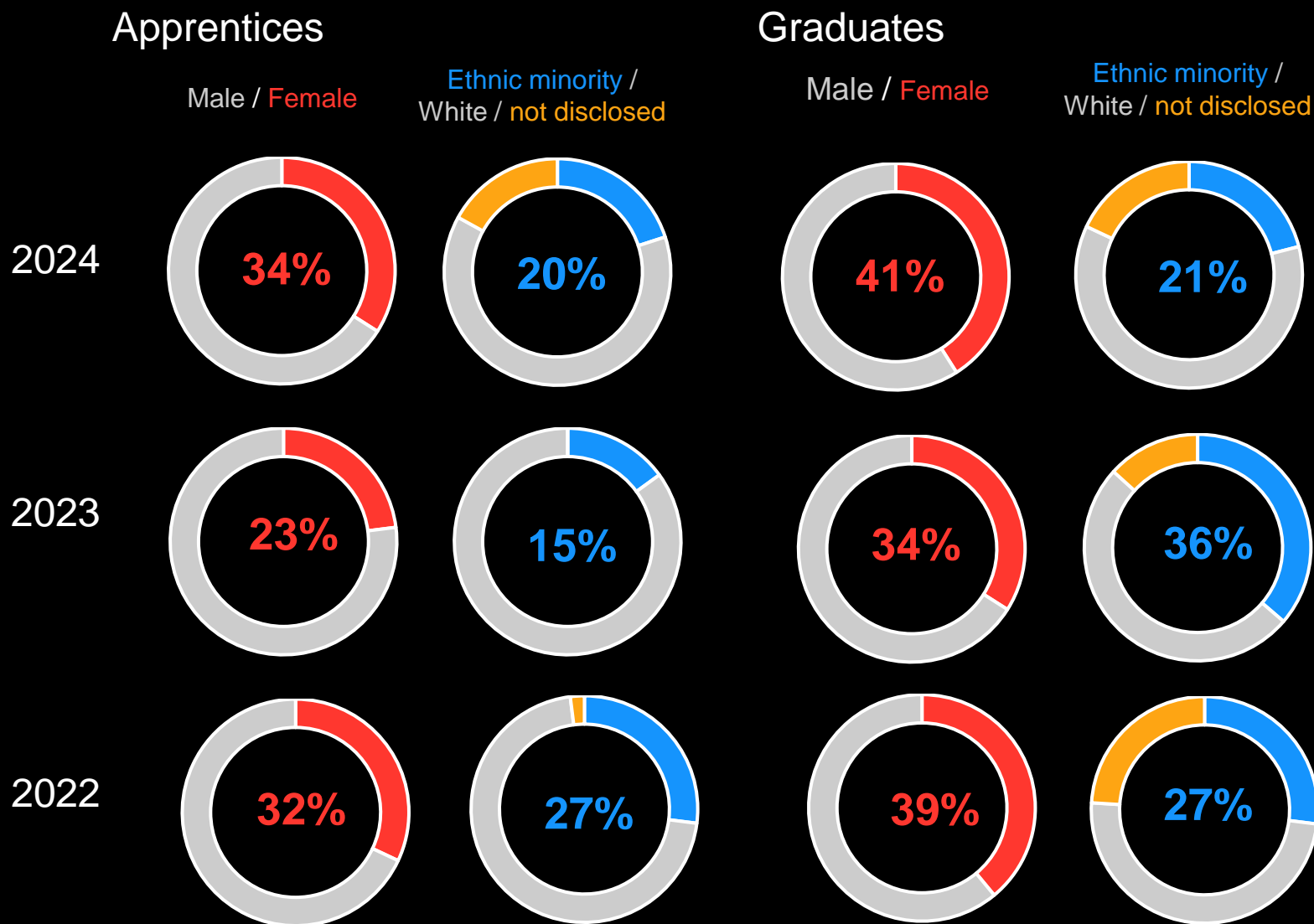


# Representation: Early Careers Professionals

In 2024, 350 grads, apprentices and placement students began their journey with us, helping create the future of professional services and sustainable development

In 2024, we were proud to become 5% Club Platinum members, with over 10% of colleagues in 'earn and learn' roles

Focus on ECPs helps us build a strong, diverse talent pipeline






# Campaign outputs

INCLUSION & BELONGING CAMPAIGN #1

## If you can see it, you can be it



**Rachel Brenton**  
Senior Risk Consultant  
• PMCM, Transport & Infrastructure  
• 6-10 years' experience

My role in one sentence

Project risk management involves identifying, assessing, and prioritising risks to minimise their impact on project and programme objectives.

*Thinking about your career timeline, what have been your key milestones?*

I've had a very versatile career. I started off my career with the intent of becoming a healthcare professional, but by the fifth clinical placement of my degree I realised the role and environment was not for me. I switched degrees, and after graduating I spent a year working in NHS Commissioning before moving to the charity sector for the following six years to conduct various roles (including business partner, service management, and project management).

The pandemic drastically changed the landscape of the charity sector, so in 2022 I made the decision to move over to WSP and specialise as a Risk Consultant.

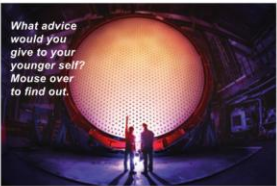
Last November I won the CIR Newcomer of the Year Award, so safe to say I've made the correct decision in joining WSP!

**What qualifications do you have?**  
Applied Health BSc, APM Project Risk.

**What does a day in the life of Rachel look like?**  
The majority of my time is utilised by Nuclear Waste Services' GDF Programme, in which I implement, facilitate and develop the risk process for both Site Evaluation and Major Permissions projects.


In terms of the internal work I do as part of the **WSP UK Neurodiverse Community's Steering Group**, this involves implementing our latest strategy (launching later this year!), supporting the ERG lead in managing business unit I&D groups, and signposting members of the ERG as queries arise.

*What advice would you give to your younger self? Mouse over to find out.*



**Who inspires you?**  
Without a doubt, the members of the **WSP UK Neurodiverse Community's Steering Group**. I'm lucky to work with such a diverse and talented group of individuals who commit their time on a voluntary basis to promote, practice, and improve neuro-inclusivity in the workplace.

*Mouse over to reveal an interesting fact about Rachel*



[Click here to view all our profiles](#)

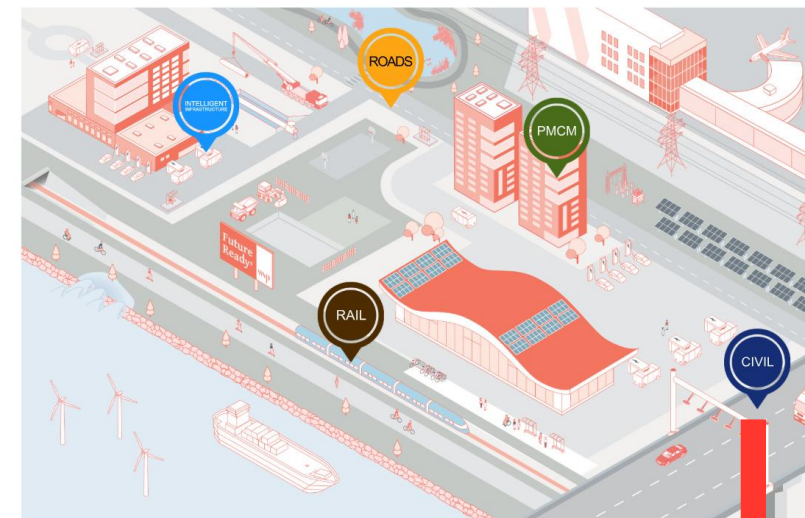
## BELONGING AT WSP

**Transport & Infrastructure Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Campaign #2**  
Creating a sense of belonging within WSP is crucial for fostering a positive and productive work environment. When employees feel valued, accepted, and integrated, they are more likely to be engaged, motivated, and committed to their work.


Campaign #2 from the Transport & Infrastructure Inclusion, Diversity & Equity forum aims to enhance the sense of belonging across all our disciplines by:

- Promoting Inclusivity:** Helping all employees to feel included and respected
- Encouraging Open Communication:** Fostering an environment where employees can freely express their ideas and concerns
- Recognising Contributions:** Acknowledging and celebrating the achievements and efforts of all team members to achieve our strategy
- Building Communities:** Strengthening relationships and collaboration among employees across business units, improving awareness of career pathways and cross-sell opportunities

**Click on a discipline icon to find out how our colleagues feel they 'Belong at WSP'.**



What experiences or features of WSP has given you a sense of belonging?



0:00 / 0:46

**SOPHIA LY**  
Graduate Engineer, Civil  
Birmingham



# Toolkit Teaser – Career pathways

**Everyone takes a different journey and although useful to explore and understand others routes, it's important not to compare your career as it is as unique as you are.**

A few questions to start:

- 1) Can you see yourself in the same role in 10 years' time?
- 2) Will you retire at the same age your parents or grandparents did?
- 3) Have you mapped out every step of your career until retirement?

**The answer to all these questions is most likely no**

*Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. - Confucius*





# My Personal Career plan

Current Job Title

Dream Job Title

What do you enjoy doing the most?

What gives you most satisfaction at work? What are your hobbies? What motivates you?

What do I want to be doing before I retire?

Are you a senior leader? An expert in your field?

My Purpose & Mission is?

My Superpowers are?

My Mentor / Coach is/should be?

Do I want more responsibility?

Consider People management, industry roles, mentoring others, task lead?

Do I want to work internationally?

Short term goals

What can you achieve in the next 6 months?

Medium term goals

What can you achieve in the next 1-2 years?

Long term goals

What can you achieve in the next 5-10 years?



**C**ontinuous learning mindsets

**A**ctively seek mentors and coaches

**R**ecognise careers are not linear

**E**veryone's journey is different

**E**valuate your goals and what motivates you

**R**etirement is a long way off... for most of us





# THANK YOU





# Inspiring young people about careers in engineering

SaRS/WSP Event  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2025



**EngineeringUK**  
INSPIRING FUTURES TOGETHER

# EngineeringUK

EngineeringUK is the operational name for the Engineering and Technology Board, a charitable organisation created in 2001 to promote education and engagement in engineering and technology.



**Our Purpose:** To drive change, so more young people choose engineering and technology careers.

**Our Vision:** The UK has the diverse workforce needed for engineering and technology to thrive and to drive economic prosperity, improve sustainability and achieve net zero.

**Our Mission:** EngineeringUK will enable more young people from all backgrounds to be informed, inspired and progress into engineering and technology.

# Strategy 2023-2028

## STRATEGY SNAPSHOT





# What engineering skills will we need in the future?

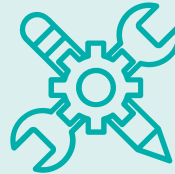
Demand for engineering skills is soaring across all sectors



Engineering jobs to grow in all UK regions between **now and 2030** – **faster than other occupations**



Around **500k new jobs** to support the green economy **by 2050**



**25% of all job postings in UK** are for engineering roles



'Green' engineering jobs are **on the increase** - a trend likely to continue



Employers report skills **shortages and recruitment challenges**



**Engineering skills needed in all sectors** from creative digital and big data to advanced manufacturing and rail transport

# Key facts and stats

**Diversity in the workplace benefits everyone,  
but the current workforce is not representative**

- Only 15.7% of eng and tech workforce are women
- Only 14% are disabled people
- Only 12% are people from minority ethnic groups
- And only 24% are people from lower socio-economic

**Women and girls are the most underrepresented group**

Maths GCSE – 50%

Physics GCSE – 49%

Maths A Level – 38%

Physics A Level – 23%

Engineering T Levels – 9%

Apprenticeships 16%

Engineering Degrees (Undergraduates) – 18%

# Workforce Diversity Matters

Research shows that **Greater diversity provides a better choice of skilled workers:**

- Providing a better platform for creativity and innovation
- Leading to better workforce productivity
- Leading to Better Financial performance



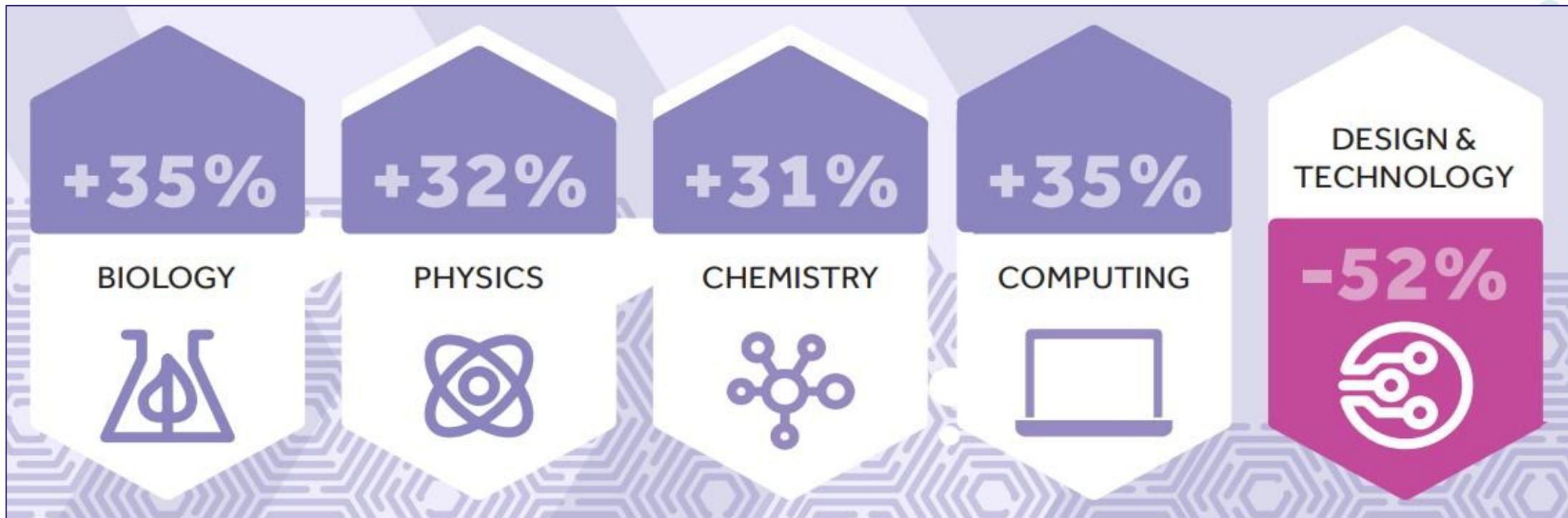
At a time of continuing skill shortages in Engineering, increasing the proportion of under-represented groups progressing into engineering has great potential to address the engineering skills shortage at a numerical level.



# The Challenge

We need to attract more young people from all backgrounds to create the diverse workforce needed for engineering and technology to thrive

GCSE uptake over the past 9 years:



# The challenge

**Interest in school science has declined since 2019, and a gender gap has opened-up.**

Interest among students in years 7 to 9 has declined from 76% to 71%. For girls, the decline is 75% to 65%

36% of girls say science is not for them

**School students are doing less practical science**

Practical science is the main motivator for 55% of young people in Years 7 to 9

Only 26% of GCSE students do hands-on practical work at least once a fortnight, down from 44% in 2016

## Engineering

Only 12% of girls say being an engineer fits well with who they are

Just 16% of girls think engineering is suitable for them

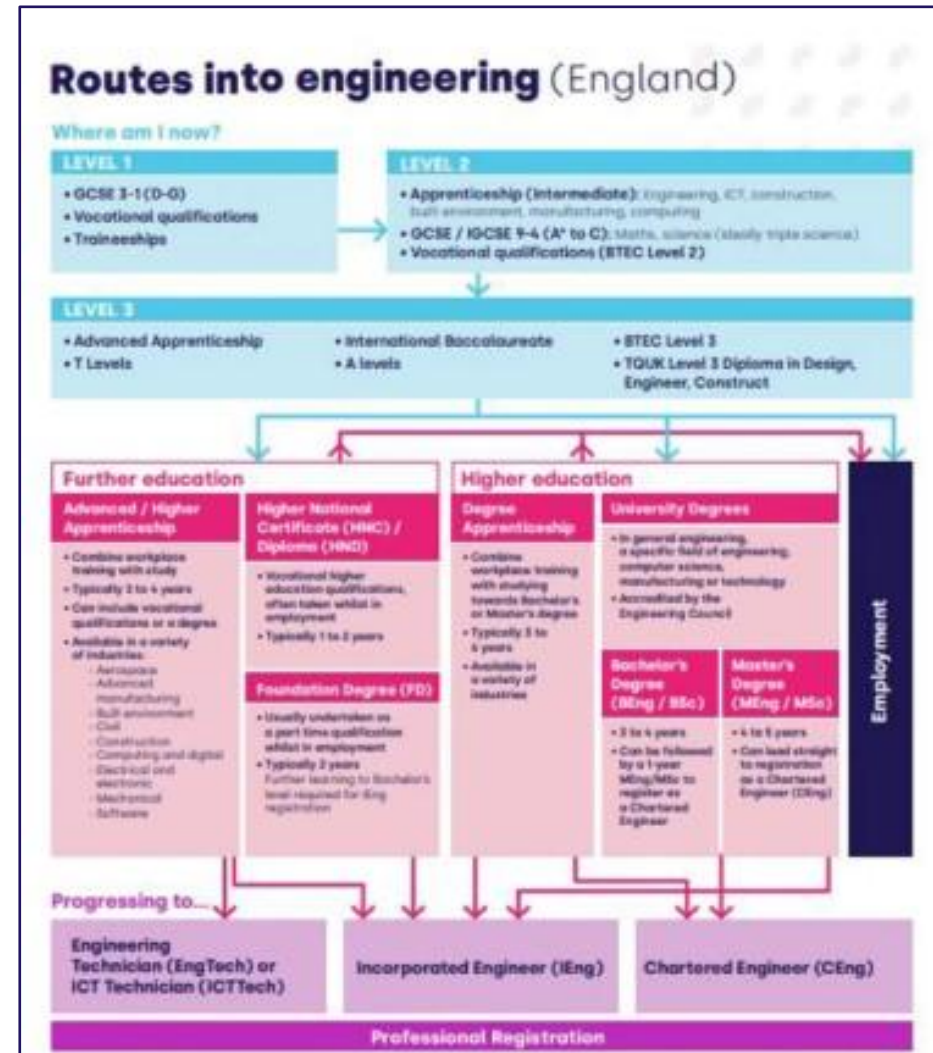
Only 29% of girls are interested in an engineering career, compared to 63% of boys 23% and 52% for tech

# Knowledge, perceptions & understanding

Our research around the knowledge perceptions and understanding young people have about careers in engineering shows that:

- 36% of students say they know a fair amount about what engineers do (32% for Tech)
- 46% are interested in an engineering career (38% for Tech)

**But 60% do not know what subjects / qualifications they need to become an engineer**





# What difference does outreach make?

Young people need to know what roles are available, be attracted to them, and understand the routes into engineering and technology

Taking part in STEM careers activities boosts young people's knowledge of and interest in engineering and technology careers

School students who attend one or more STEM careers activity are:



**3.5 times**

More likely to know what people working in engineering do.



**3.4 times**

More likely to consider a career in engineering.

# Targeting Underrepresented Groups

In 2020, EngineeringUK developed a set of 'EDI Criteria' to identify schools to prioritise for engagement with our programmes in order to reach more young people from groups under-represented in engineering.

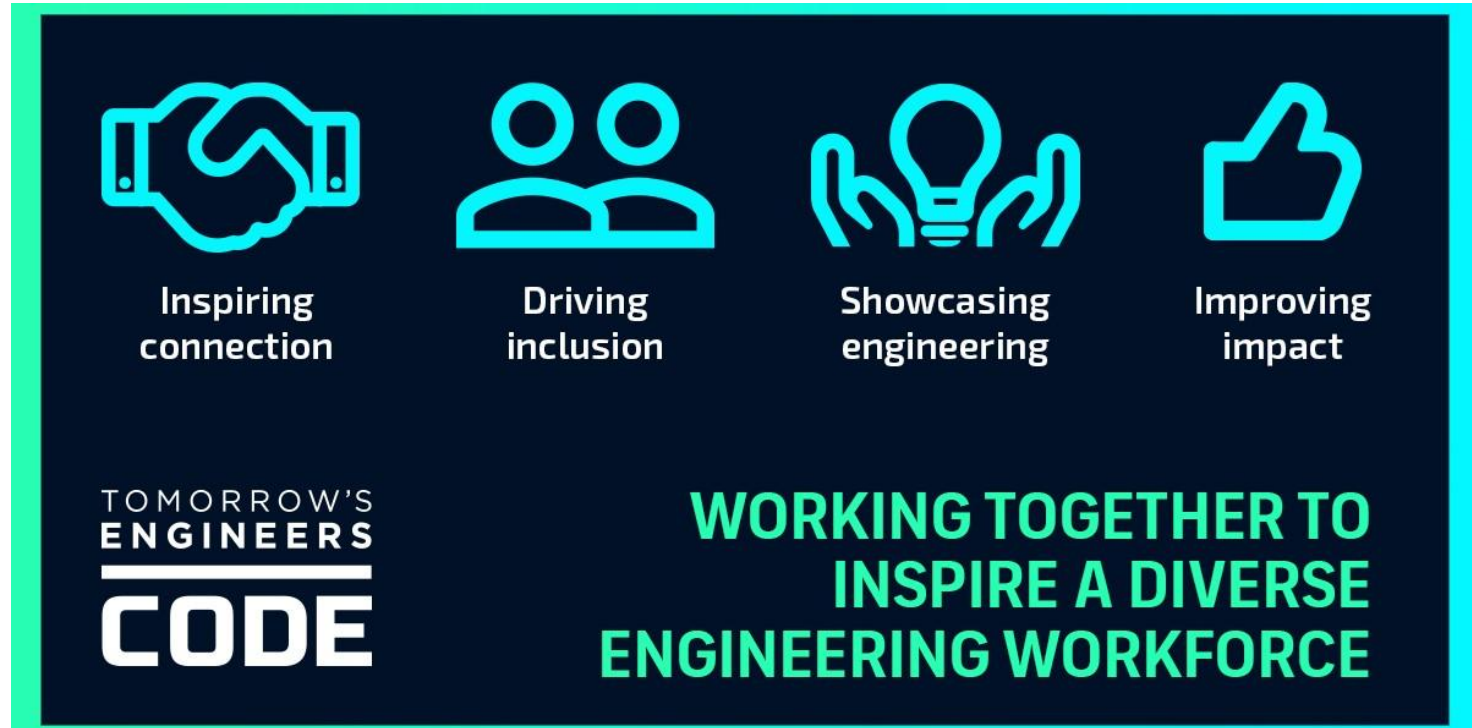
In applying this approach since then, analyses of the demographic profile of the young people participating in our programmes shows that when working with Priority Schools, there are higher proportions of young people from UK minority ethnic backgrounds, those eligible for Free School Meals, disabled young people and those with special educational needs.



**EngineeringUK**

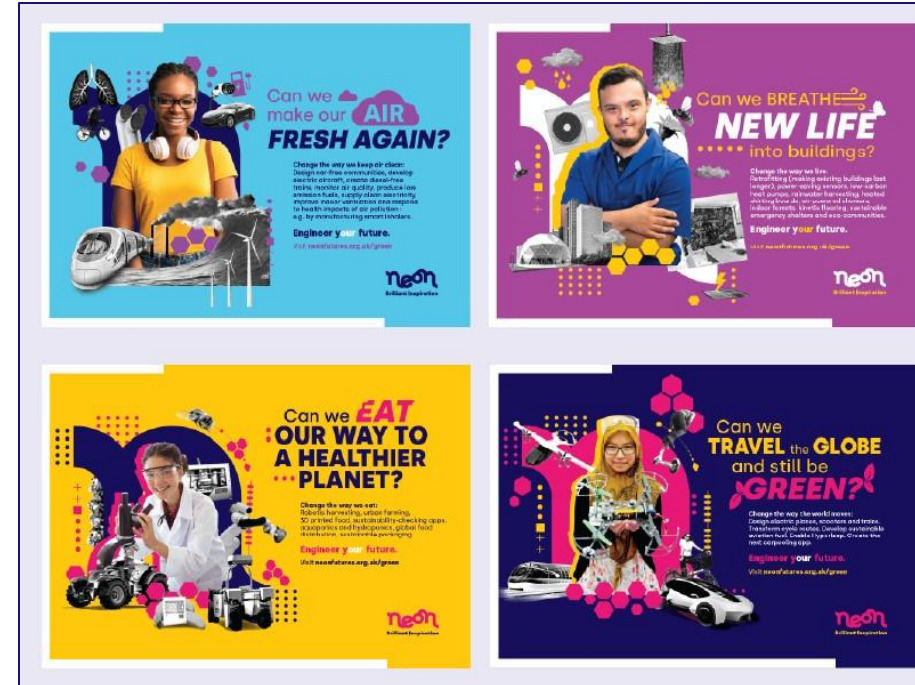
# How can you get involved?

By working together towards common goals and standards



# How can you get involved?

Make it easier for teachers to connect to your outreach and engagement activities via Neon





# How can you get involved?

There are lots of opportunities for you to work with us through our engagement programmes including:



# Thank you

Moira Shaftoe  
Head of Professional Institutions & Partnerships,  
EngineeringUK

[mshaftoe@engineeringuk.com](mailto:mshaftoe@engineeringuk.com)



THE professional institution for safety, reliability and engineering risk management practitioners - in ALL industries

# Professional Registration and CPD – a SaRS perspective



# What will be covered?

- What is the Safety and Reliability Society (SaRS)?
- Professional Registration its benefits, the process and how can SaRS help
- Continued Professional Development – what is it, why do we need it and how can SaRS help
- SaRS membership
- Summary



# What is SaRS?

- The Safety and Reliability Society (SaRS) was formed in 1980 as a membership charity to disseminate knowledge
- SaRS is a membership organisation with individual members and Affiliate Organisation members
- SaRS is a Licensed Member of Engineering Council for CEng. and IEng. Professional Registration
- SaRS Collaborates with European Safety and Reliability Association (ESRA), British Standards Institute (BSI), and others
- Run by volunteers who know and understand safety and reliability
- Promotes Safety and Reliability learning, development and recognition across industries globally

# What is Professional Registration?

- Professional registration is a formal process where individuals demonstrate their competency and commitment to professional standards within their field, often by a professional body.
- Registration with SaRS demonstrates that a safety and reliability practitioner has reached a set standard of knowledge, understanding and occupational competence against the Engineering Council's standard - UK-SPEC
- Registration provides a benchmark for the public, employers, and clients to have confidence in the skills and ethics of registered professionals.

# Professional Registration with SaRS

- Safety and Reliability engineering is a specialist area
- SaRS has worked hard to get Safety and Reliability expertise recognised for Professional Registration with the Engineering Council
- SaRS is a Licensed Member of the Engineering Council for Professional Registration for Chartered and Incorporated Engineers

# SaRS as a Licensee

- SaRS was licensed by the Engineering Council in 2020 following 15 years as a Professional Affiliate
- Received a full 5-year license in 2021 and has recently received a further 5-year licence
- Of the smaller Licensees, SaRS has registered and retained the most registrants
- Regulation by the Engineering Council means that our processes are brought up to date by continuous audit and improvement cycles by our Engineering Management Committee



# Professional Registration

Benefits of achieving Chartered status:

- Commitment to regulation in the industry
- Improved career prospects
- Higher earning potential
- Enhanced professional image to employers and customers
- Enhanced status leading to higher self-esteem
- International recognition
- Evidence of expertise
- An investment in your future

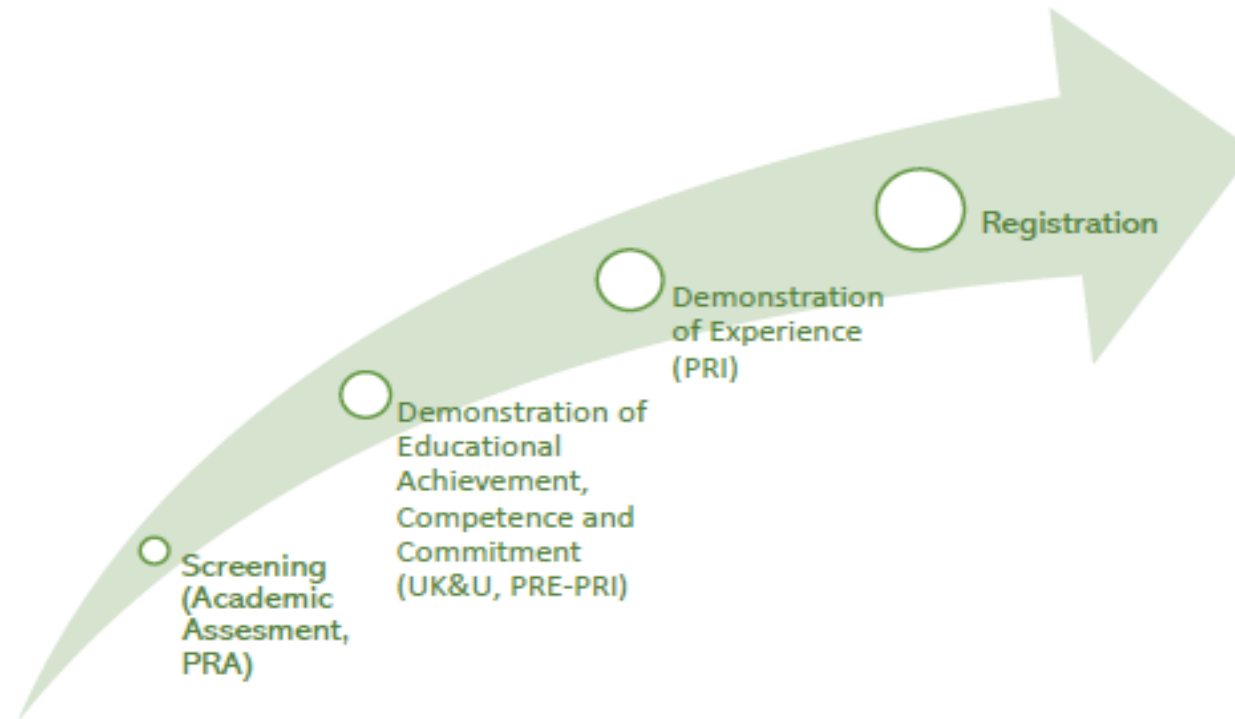
# Why register with SaRS?

- SaRS understands what safety and reliability means in terms of professional development.
- Building on your SaRS membership, the SaRS route to registration with the Engineering Council means you are demonstrating your competency and commitment – **we know what UK SPEC means in the context of safety and reliability.**
- Our assessors are experienced in safety and reliability from various industries.
- We accept applicants working in safety and reliability from a wide range of backgrounds.

# Registration Process

THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY SOCIETY (SaRS)

Engineering Council Registration - what happens after submitting your application?



# Steps to Registration

- Join SaRS
- Read UKSPEC and other guidance
- Think about a CPD Plan – you will need a plan for your application and CPD is mandatory after registration
- Start to complete the application form
- When ready, submit application form for screening
- Academic Screening will identify route (Individual Assessment Route or Recognised Qualification Route)
- Professional Registration Advisor will work with you on your application form
- Finally... formal submission, assessment and interview.



# Continuing Professional Development

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD):
- What is it?
- Why do we need it?
- What counts as CPD
- How can SaRS help?

# Continuing Professional Development

## What is it?

- It's the systematic way of keeping up to date in your professional work.
- It is a fundamental part of any career in engineering – ensuring 'professionally registered and active' engineers keep up to date by constantly learning and improving, to develop skills and stay at the cutting edge

# Continuing Professional Development

## Why do it?

- To refresh, widen and challenge our knowledge to keep us moving forward with our career development
- Establish a path to join a recognised body like SaRS and potentially to professional registration
- Required by professional institutions and Engineering Council – 5% of registrants with the Engineering Council are sampled annually
- Supports long-term career development

# Continuing Professional Development

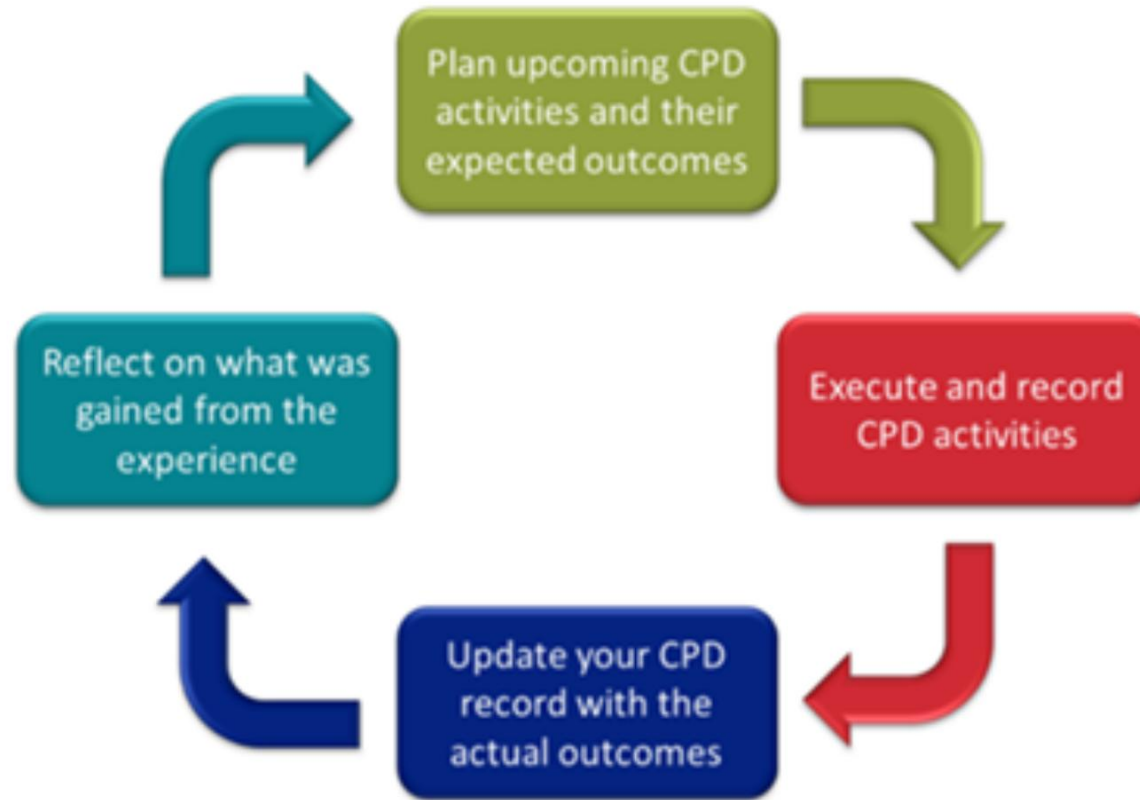
## What is CPD? What counts?

- Formal: Courses, conferences, qualifications
- Informal: Reading technical journals, webinars, podcasts, forums
- Experiential: Day to day job, work on challenging projects, learning from incidents or audits, cross functional tasks or secondments
- Reflective: Mentoring, serving on professional committees, writing technical articles

*As long as you are able to record and reflect on an activity, and identify a learning or personal growth outcome, and that it is relevant to your discipline, it is CPD. The focus is on the learning and growth outcome rather than on time spent.*



# Continuing Professional Development Cycle



- Detailed guidance on CPD is provided by the Engineering Council

# What CPD does SaRS Provide?

SaRS takes CPD very seriously, CPD is now mandatory for members of SaRS who are registered with the Engineering Council. All Professional Engineering Institutes will now be sampling members, so it is important to complete CPD.

We provide the following CPD Opportunities for members:

- A Peer Reviewed Journal
- Branch Meetings with Technical focus
- Webinars with international, cross industry participation
- Opportunities to represent SaRS on external Standards and in Consultations
- Opportunities to serve with cross-industry experts on SaRS Council and Committees

# Why join SaRS?

- Being part of an established professional body with recognised titles after your name: MSaRS for Members and, for the more experienced Fellows, FSaRS
- Broadening your horizons through cross-industry learning and knowledge transfer
- Access to free and discounted safety and reliability related events
- Keeping informed on safety and reliability developments through the regular SaRS specific newsletters and the peer reviewed quarterly Journal
- SaRS provides a route to Incorporated Engineer and Chartered Engineer registration with the Engineering Council
- Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

# Summary

- SaRS is run for the benefit of its members and for the wider development of safety, reliability and risk management practice
- Professional Registration is an investment in your future
- SaRS provides a route to Professional Registration for S&R specialists
- CPD is essential to refresh, widen and challenge our knowledge to keep us moving forward with our career development
- It is mandatory for maintaining Professional registration
- Being a member of SaRS is recognition of your expertise

**Joining details are on the SaRS website [www.sars.org.uk](http://www.sars.org.uk)**



# Contact Details

If you are interested in any aspect of SaRS please contact us - we will be happy to help – scan the QR code for joining details:



In the office:

Nicola Owen - [info@sars.org.uk](mailto:info@sars.org.uk)

[WWW.SARS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SARS.ORG.UK)

**Thank you for your interest in the Safety and Reliability Society**

# Accessing the webinar recordings

- All webinar recordings are archived under the Resources Tab on the SaRS website
- SaRS members can access this archive as a member benefit:
  - You can join as a full member, or
  - The simplified **“Associate of the Society”** grade which gives you access to all the SaRS resources including the webinars.
  - See [www.sars.org.uk](http://www.sars.org.uk)
- This webinar recording will be available in a couple of days so keep an eye out if you want to see it again

# FEEDBACK

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click to find  
out how

- I am now going to initiate a feedback form - please can I ask you to fill it in before you exit the webinar
- The information is vital for us to improve our offering - please take two minutes to fill it in and click Submit
- Your CPD Certificate will be sent to you if you requested one at registration
- Thank you very much for attending