



Adult Skills Conference

CLAIRES WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS



Agenda AM

- 09.30am Refreshments & Networking
- 09.55 am Take your seats
- 10.00 am Welcome - Employment and Skills- Fliss Miller
- 10.15 am You said we did- Craig Moffatt
- 10.25 am Nottingham City Council Overview
- 10.40 am Derby City Council Overview
- 10.55 am Refreshment break
- 11.10 am Ofsted update- Julie Ashton
- 11.25 am Table Activity 1- Effective and impactful Collaboration
- 11:50 am Activity table feedback
- 12:00 pm Lunch



Agenda PM

- 12:45 pm Take your seats
- 12:50 pm Derbyshire County Council Overview
- 13:10 pm Nottinghamshire County Council Overview
- 13.30 pm Careers Hub- Tina Patel
- 13.40 pm Connect to Work- Fliss Miller
- 13:50 pm Table Activity 2- Progression and tracking
ASF/FCfJ
- 13:50 pm Table Activity 2- Skills Bootcamps Business
Engagement
- 14:20 pm Close- Craig Moffatt



Employment & Skills

Fliss Miller - Director of Employment and Skills

East Midlands overview: strong industrial base and significant growth potential

The East Midlands region of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire has a rich industrial heritage and modern strengths across clean energy, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, digital, cultural, and creative sectors and the visitor economy.

Headline economic stats

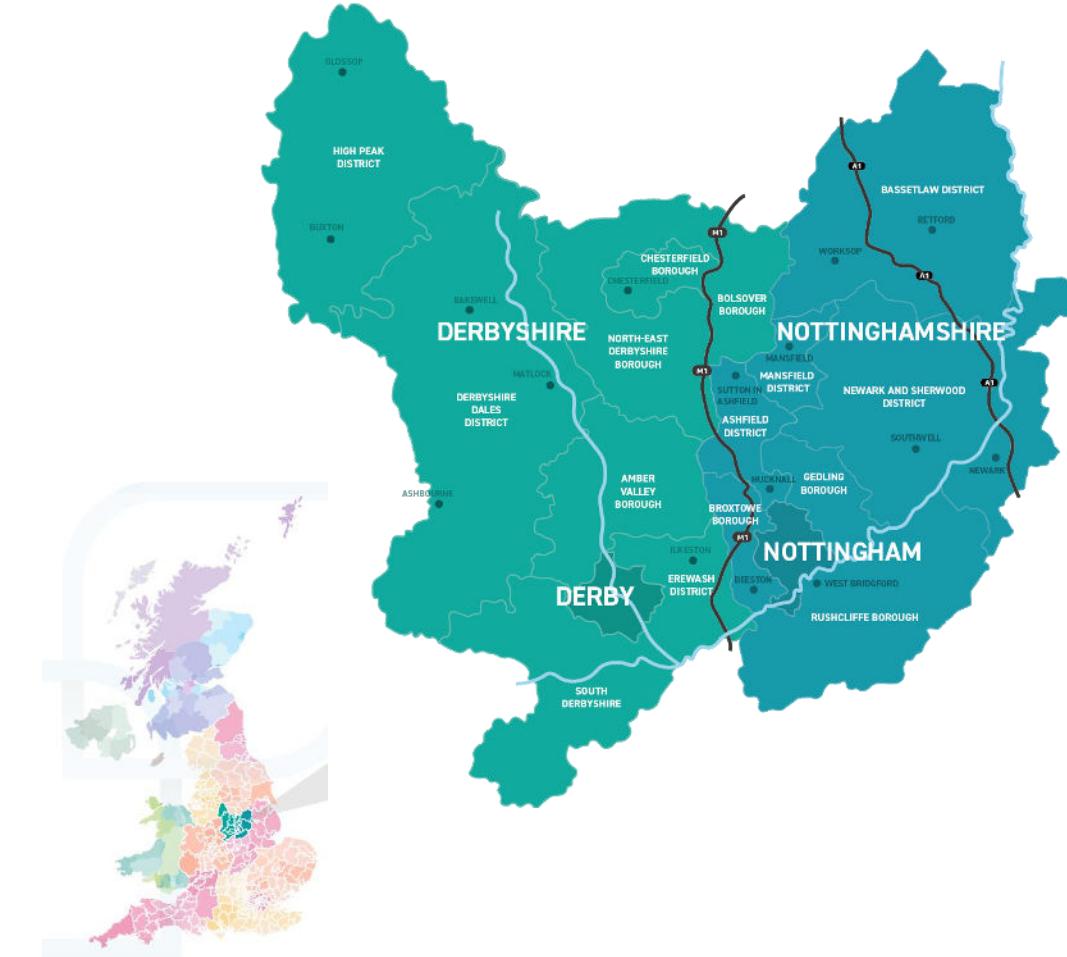
- 2.28 million population
- £60 bn nominal GVA
- 75.8% employment rate (0.2% above the national average)
- 75,000 active businesses

Opportunities

- Largest manufacturing employment base (6.1% of the UK)
- Industrial strategy sector strengths: clean energy, life sciences, advanced manufacturing (and defence) and digital, culture and creative
- Strong visitor economy, including Peak District National Park, Sherwood Forest, top level sports and Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO world heritage site. 77 million annual visitors
- Leading international companies such as Rolls Royce, Toyota and Alstom
- Logistics hub, built around M1 spine; 90% of the country within a four hours of the East Midlands
- Trent Arc connects cities of Derby and Nottingham – includes Investment Zone and UK's only inland Freeport.
- Supercluster centred on three former coal fired power stations at West Burton, Cottam and High Marham selected as UK site for UK STEP fusion Currently delivering c10k houses per year, with housing supply growing at four times the national average
- 225% growth in renewable energy capacity 2014-21 (above national average)

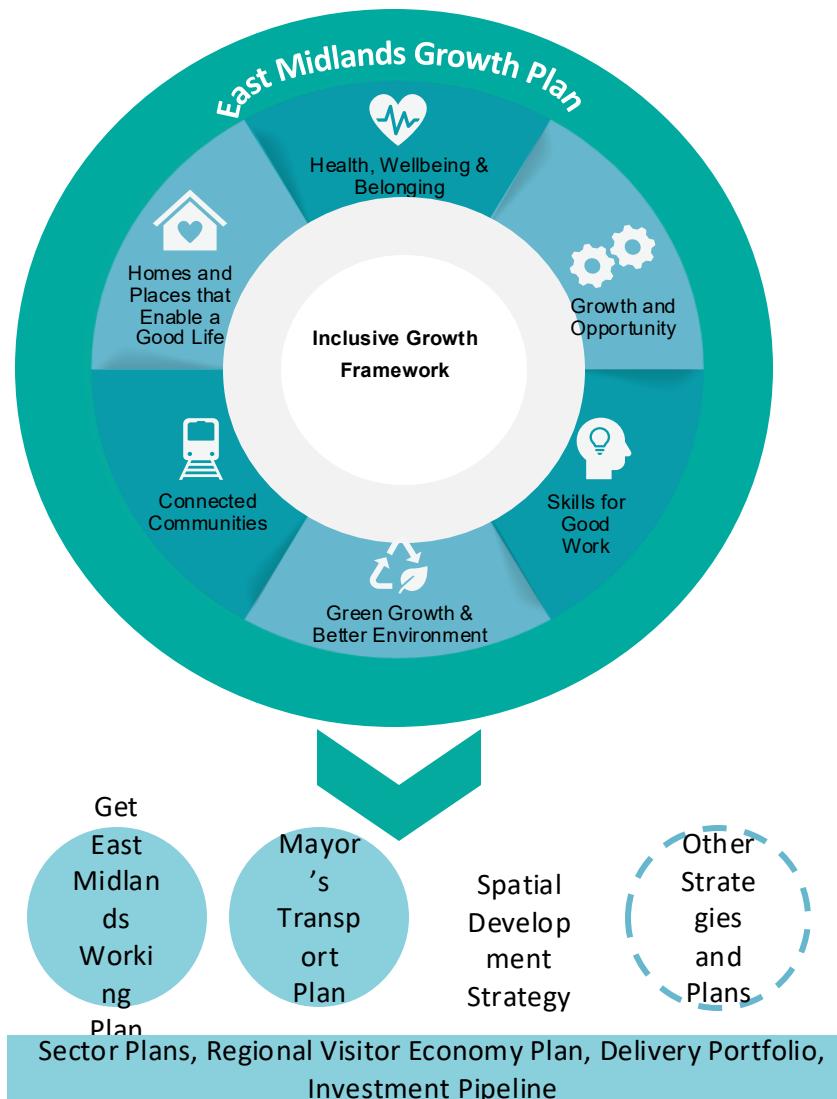
Challenges

- £19,400 gross disposable income per capita (17% below national average)
- 22.3% GVA growth 2023 (7.6% lower than the national average)
- £35.6 productivity per hour (below national average)
- 32.5% deprivation gap (above national average)
- Historic underinvestment. HM Treasury Public Expenditure Spending Analysis (PESA) for 2023-24: transport funding per person in the East Midlands was only 54% of the UK average



East Midlands Inclusive Growth Framework: our platform for partnership working

Core Mission: By 2040, every resident will be proud to call the East Midlands home. All young people will have a fair start and a clear path to progress. A thriving, green and inclusive economy will improve health and wellbeing, widen opportunity regardless of postcode, and empower all residents to shape their places and future.



Ambitions



GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

By 2040, the East Midlands will be one of the fastest growing regional economies in the UK. People across the region will have better access to opportunity and be in good, secure and rewarding work. This will be enabled by innovation rooted in our strengths in making, producing and movement, establishing the East Midlands as a leading destination for business investment.



SKILLS FOR GOOD WORK

By 2040, the East Midlands will be a place where people can gain the skills they need for the jobs they want, with high-quality local training, better pay, and clear routes to progress. From first steps into work to careers at the forefront of industry, everyone will have the chance to realise their potential, and more jobs will offer security, purpose and pride.



HOMES AND PLACE THAT ENABLE A GOOD LIFE

By 2040, the housing affordability gap in the East Midlands will be closing, with rents and house prices better aligned to local incomes. Communities will have access to safe and warm housing, suitable to their needs, enabling people to live healthy lives in connected communities.



GREEN GROWTH AND A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

By 2040, the East Midlands will be a UK leader in maximising jobs and opportunities from clean energy and green technologies. Improving everyone's environment will mean creating cleaner, greener communities, with warmer homes, better public transport, greater access to nature, and improved protection from flooding and the environmental impacts of climate change.



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

By 2040, communities in the East Midlands will benefit from reliable, inclusive and sustainable connectivity, through integrated transport and high-quality digital infrastructure, broadening access to opportunity and reducing reliance on private cars, while driving investment across the region.



HEALTH, WELLBEING AND BELONGING

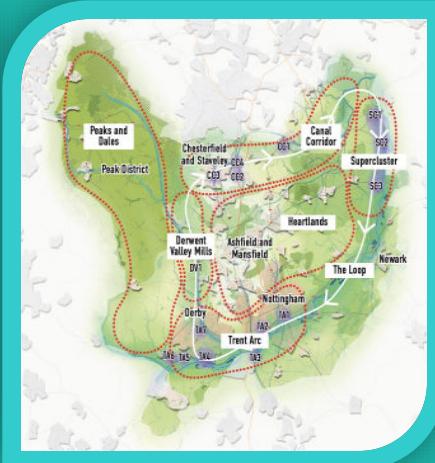
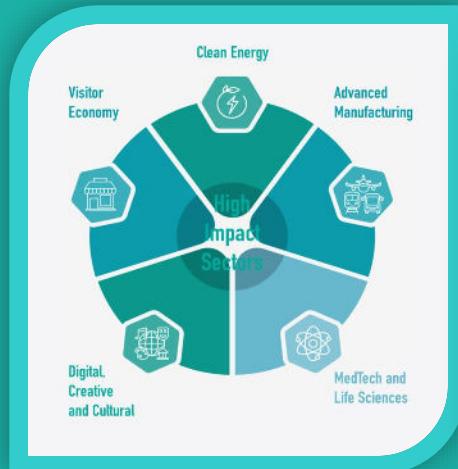
By 2040, significantly reduce the gap in life expectancy between our most and least advantaged communities and improve health and wellbeing for all residents by focusing on prevention, treatment, and support, enabling people to participate fully in their communities and benefit from opportunities around them.

Growth Plan: enablers, sectors and places for long-term growth

Our 10-year East Midlands (Local) Growth Plan sets actions to unlock regional growth, through cross-cutting “enablers”, high impact sectors and seven strategic growth areas.

Our 10-year Growth Plan is a first step. We will work with Govt to:

- **Enablers:** Create the right environment for business investment through our six “enablers” of growth
- **Sectors:** Harness potential of high impact sectors, building on the Industrial Strategy, in addition to established sectoral strengths
- **Place:** develop seven strategic growth areas
- **Investment:** Address historic underinvestment in the region, maximising opportunities from the Govt's Industrial Strategy and to unlock private investment
- **Devolution:** move to Established Status and an Integrated Settlement



Achieving our 10-year ambitions will mean



£13bn

More in our economy and ensuring everyone feels the benefits of growth



£2bn

Investment in new and improved transport infrastructure



60,000

More people in work with an 80% employment rate



210,000

More people with skilled qualifications



100,000

More homes built

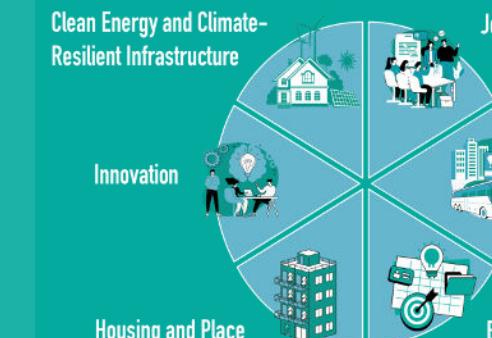


1GW

Additional community clean energy generation

Clean Energy and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Innovation



Jobs and Skills

Connectivity

Business Partnerships

Housing and Place

Enablers of growth: unlocking the potential of the East Midlands

We will partner with Government on shared priorities to improve productivity, drive investment and unlock the full long-term growth potential of the East Midlands. Our Growth Plan sets out actions to support the “enablers” of growth, including:

Housing and place

- Support more than 100,000 new homes in the region, through partnership with government, Homes England and local authorities
- Develop our first regional Spatial Development Strategy
- Work with local authorities and the Net Zero Hub to enable retrofit of 2,500 homes and 5,000 energy saving and generating measures
- Support up to 2,000 new homes on brownfield land by investing up to £36.5m through the Government's Brownfield Housing Fund

Clean energy and climate resilient infrastructure

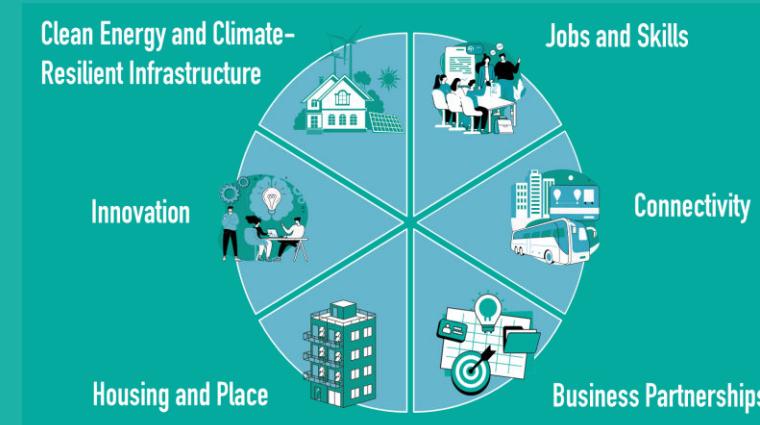
- Deploy £15.7 million of East Midlands Investment Zone capital to attract private capital and drive industrial transformation, including nuclear and fusion
- Unlock major investment across fusion, nuclear fission, hydrogen, wind, solar, heat networks and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)
- Drive targeted, high impact energy investment leveraging the outputs of England's largest Local Area Energy Plan
- Secure funding for major flood resilience infrastructure along the Derwent, Trent and Wye rivers

Business partnerships

- Ensure the right business advice and support is available to enable more businesses to start, scale and export
- Develop Invest East Midlands offer that attracts new business investment and showcases our strengths to a domestic and international audience
- Promote the region overseas to drive increased exports and foreign investment growth, including to markets such as the USA, Germany, and Japan

Innovation

- Support the delivery of the £160 million 10-year East Midlands Investment Zone Strategy and Investment Plan to unlock innovation, including in advanced manufacturing and clean energy
- Work with our Innovation Advisory Board and regional partners to pursue funding of up to £20 million from UKRI's Local Innovation Partnerships Fund
- Work with partners to support the development of innovation facilities that support sector and national priorities



Connectivity

- Deliver improved transport infrastructure through Mayor's Transport Plan and over £2bn of investment to 2032
- Investment to improve and maintain roads
- Take control of bus policy through new devolved powers

Jobs and skills

- Adopt and implement an Opportunity Escalator to connect people to good jobs and enable pathways to progression.
- Develop and implement Local Skills Improvement Plan and Getting Britain Working Plan
- Deliver Adult Skills Fund, Free Courses for Jobs, Skills Bootcamps and Connect to Work programme

High impact sectors: building on the Government's Industrial Strategy

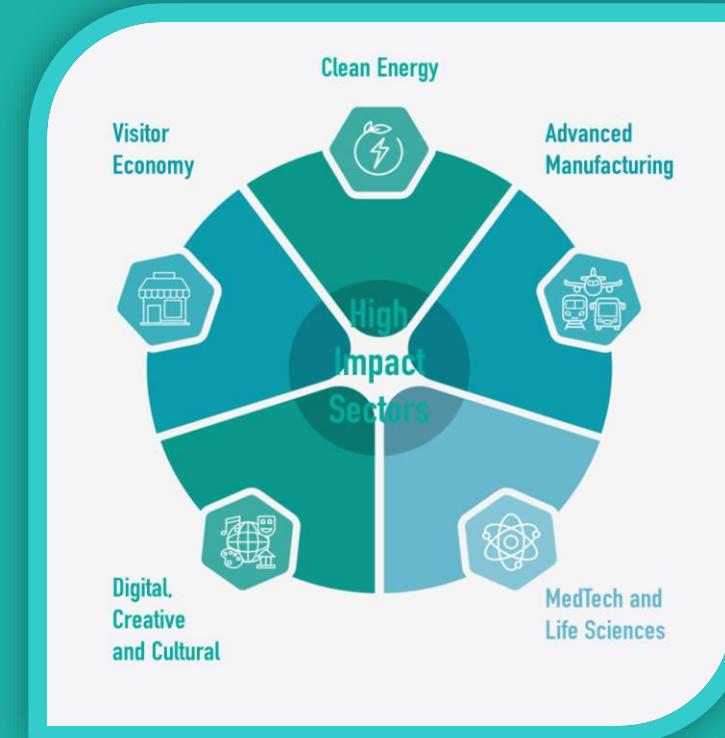
The East Midlands has high impact sectors, aligned with the Government's Industrial Strategy, in addition to established sector strengths of national significance.

High impact sectors

- **Clean energy** - Megawatt Valley 2.0 repurposing five former power station sites along the Trent; £2.5bn Govt investment in STEP at West Burton, the world's first prototype fusion power plant.
- **Advanced Manufacturing** – leader in transport and defence and home to Rolls Royce, Toyota and Alstom; Great British Rail headquarters in Derby; Rolls Royce Civil contributed £3.5bn to regional GDP
- **MedTech and Life Sciences** – BioCity Nottingham, the UK's largest bioscience innovation incubator, is home to 70 life sciences and contract research companies.
- **Digital, Creative and Cultural** – Nottingham has the fastest growing GVA for creative and digital industries outside of London; leading firms such as Games Workshop.
- **Visitor Economy** – Peak District National Park, Sherwood Forest, the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site and top-level sports venues - East Midlands attracts 77 million visitors annually

Established sector strengths

- **Defence** – Derby is at the heart of propulsion and reactor technologies that are critical to national security, clean energy and international partnerships like AUKUS
- **Aggregates, Minerals, and Low Carbon Construction** – Contributes £1.14 billion to the regional economy and employing 1,300 people across 36 companies. The Peak Cluster carbon capture and storage (CCS) project, backed by £28.6m from the National Wealth Fund, is transforming cement and lime industries accounting for 40% of UK production.
- **Logistics** – The East Midlands is at the crossroads of the country, with the M1 providing strong connectivity and 90% of the UK within four hours. East Midlands Freeport connects East Midlands Airport (largest UK freight airport) and Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC), Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station and East Midlands Intermodal Park (EMIP)



Place: Seven Growth Strategy Areas

EMCCA has established seven strategic growth areas to drive investment and regeneration. Our approach will harness the diversity of the region, from urban centres, industrial sites, rural communities and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Growth Strategy Areas (and projects):

Trent Arc – connecting the cities of Derby and Nottingham

- TA1 Nottingham Regeneration
- TA2 Toton and Chetwynd
- TA3 Ratcliffe-on-Soar Former Power Station
- TA4 Infinity Park Derby (Investment Zone)
- TA5 Willington Former Power Station
- TA6 East Midlands Intermodal Park (EMIP, Freeport)
- TA7 Derby City Centre

Supercluster – three former power station sites

- SC1 West Burton B Power Station – STEP Energy Fusion Prototype Project
- SC2 Cottam Former Power Station
- SC3 High Marnham Former Power Station

Canal Corridor – connecting Chesterfield and Worksop

- CC1 Explore Park, Worksop (Investment Zone)
- CC2 Markham Vale Enterprise Zone
- CC3 Chesterfield Town Regeneration
- CC4 Hartington and Staveley (Investment Zone)
- CC3 and CC4 reliant upon outcome of large local majors review of Chesterfield Staveley regeneration route project (DfT)

Derwent Valley Mills – UNESCO world heritage site

- DV1 Derwent Valley Mills

Peaks and Dales – stunning visitor economy attractions, including the Peak District and Chatsworth House

Heartlands – towns including Ashfield and Mansfield

The Loop – long distance walking trail around the region



Context: The East Midlands faces significant skills and employment challenges

- Significant disparities within the region: Areas of deprivation, such as Ashfield, have significantly lower rates of young people going to university than the national average
- High rates of economic inactivity: 21% of working age population are inactive, ranging from 14% to 28% across the region; high rates of health-related worklessness (6.5% vs 5.8% England average)
- Low educational attainment: Fewer than one in five pupils in the region achieved a good grade in their GCSEs
- Urban and rural environments: As the first Combined County Authority, our residents face distinct challenges in different parts of the region

Figure 1: Qualification profile, 25–64-year-olds, 2022

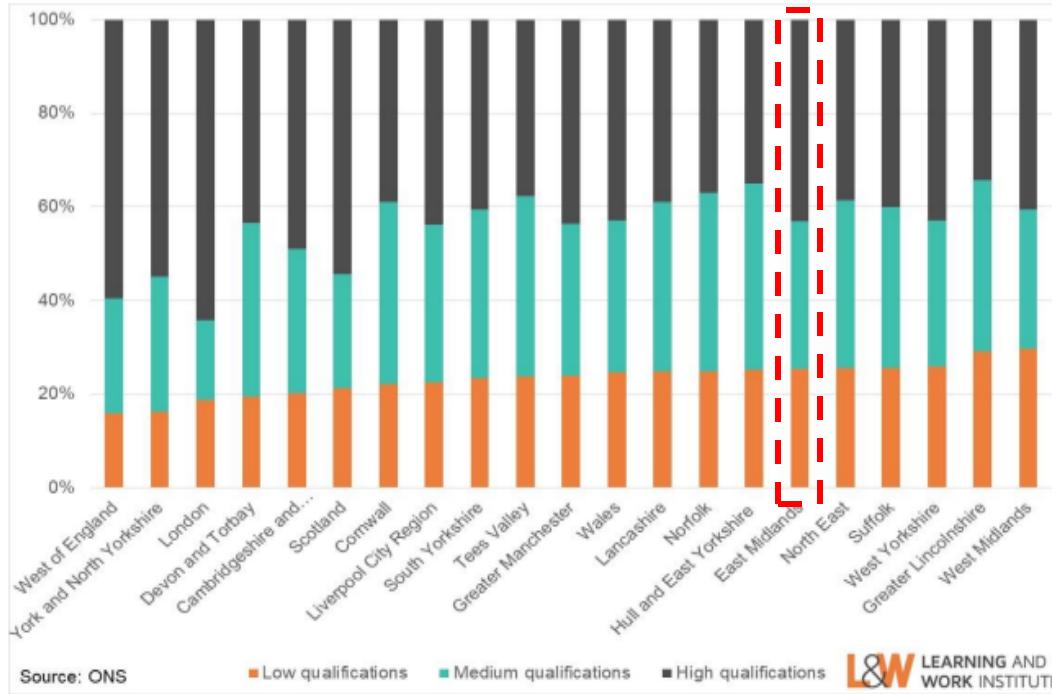
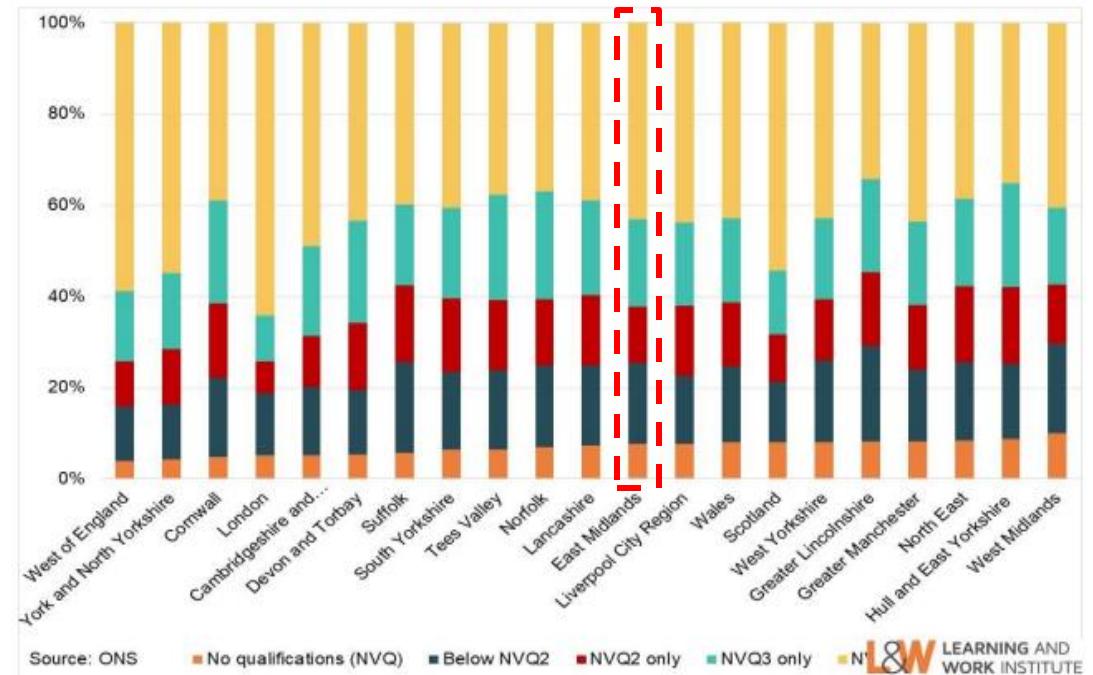
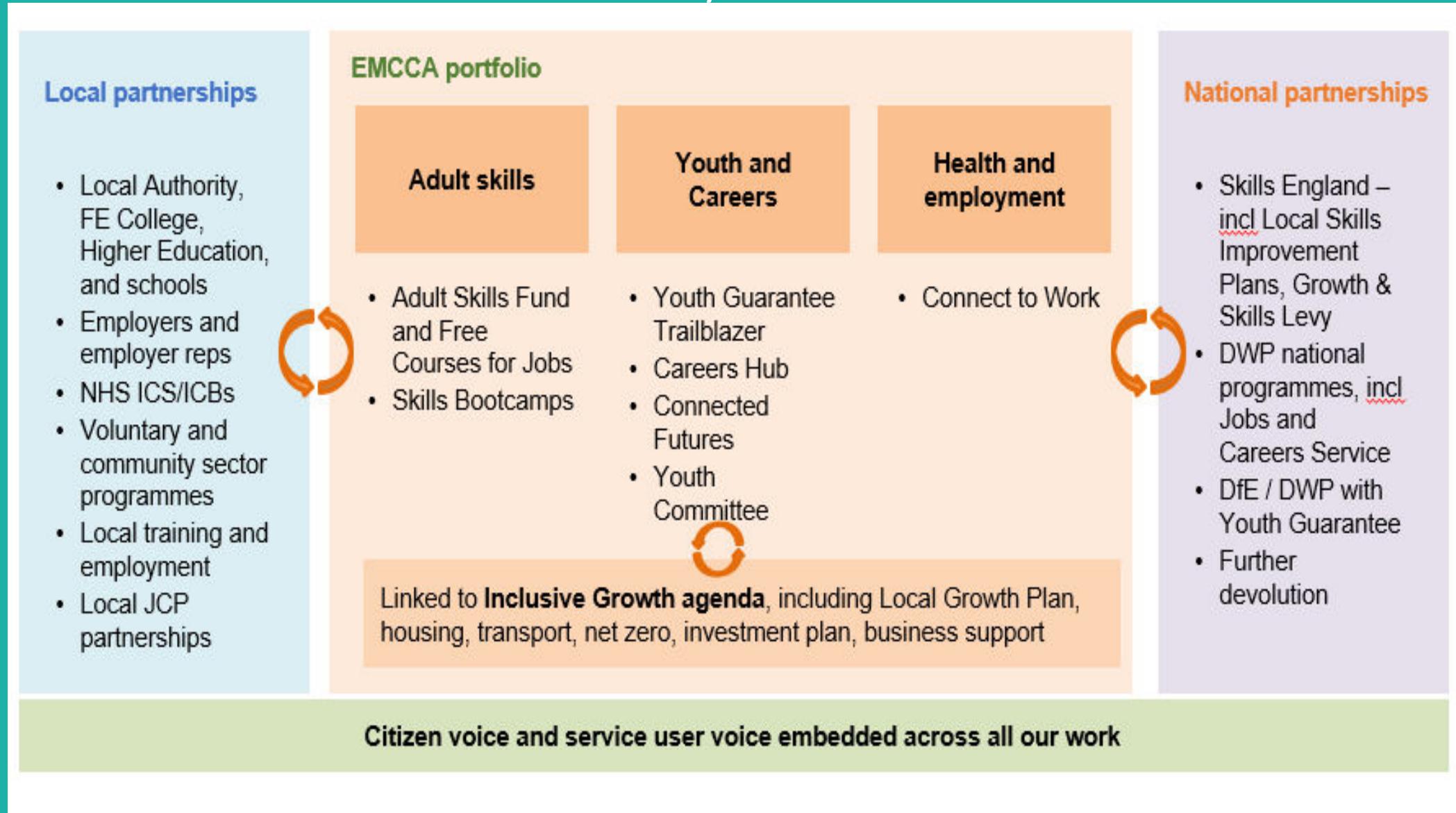


Figure 2: Highest qualification for 25–64-year-olds by level by area, 2022



EMCCA's skills and employment portfolio sits within a broader local and national system



Get East Midlands Working Plan

By 2035, the Get East Midlands Working Partnership and this Plan aim to:

- Increase the regional employment rate to 80%, bringing an additional 60,000 people into work.
- Narrowing the regional earnings gap with the national average

Our vision: To build an integrated employment system in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire for everyone that connects health, skills, housing and support services and ensures that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, can access good work, improve their wellbeing and contribute to a thriving, inclusive regional economy.

Strategic Priorities Delivering the vision requires system change built around three priorities:

- **Priority 1:** Effective training and employment support - We will connect residents to sustainable jobs through easy-to-access, targeted health and employment support and jobs-focused skills development so that everyone can get into work and progress.
- **Priority 2:** A joined-up system - We will work better together as partners, strengthening governance and integration to ensure clear leadership, coordinated action and accountable delivery across the employment, health and skills system.
- **Priority 3:** Overcoming wider barriers We will tackle structural barriers that stop people getting into work, including transport, housing and health access. This will unlock inclusive, long-term employment opportunities and build a more resilient workforce.

You Said We Did

Craig Moffatt- Head of Adult Skills Programmes

Adult Skills - Construction

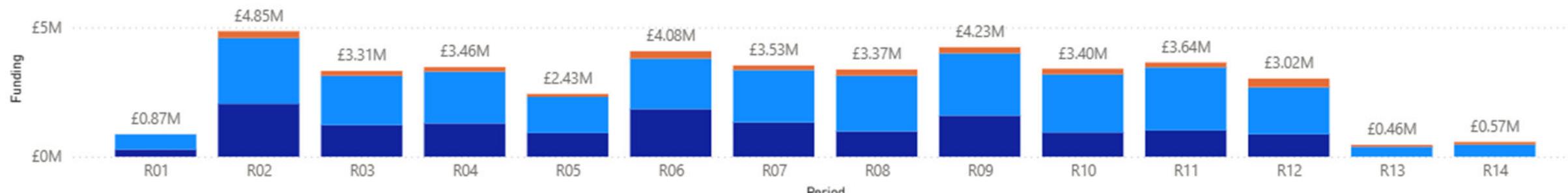


You Said, We Did

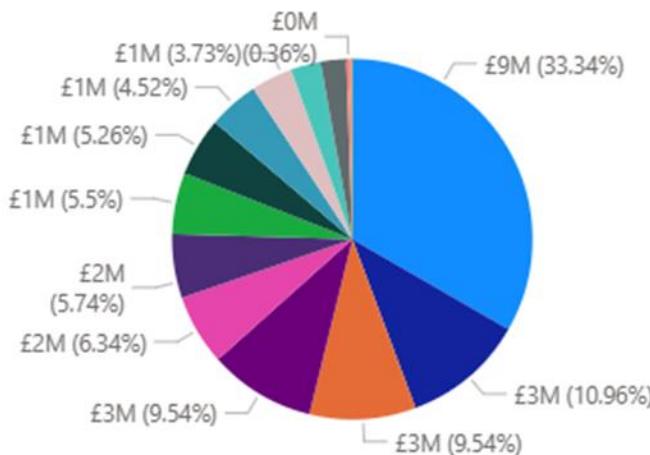
- ASF priorities – SSP approved at EMCCA board December
 - Match skills to economic need to increase productivity and wellbeing.
 - Reduce inequality and promote social mobility to allow people to achieve their potential.
 - Work in alignment with other public funding sources to offer coherent progression routes.
- Map provision:
 - See following slides
- Commission and link up progression routes with other programmes
 - Commissioned ASF, FCFJ with Bootcamps grant
- Pre 25/26:
 - 251 providers delivering in 23/24
 - 32.3% EMCCA providers
 - 67% out of area
- Now 25/26:
 - 26 learning organisations – 16 Grant, 10 procured
 - 92% delivered by local learning organisations
 - 75% classroom, 10% Blended, 15% online. distance learning
- Outcomes & Impact
 - Delivery plans
 - Evaluations to commence year 2
- Lots more to work on, updates at future events

Funding by Period and Funding Stream

Funding Stream ● ASF (TL) ● ASF Direct (FF) ● ASF Subcontracted (FF)

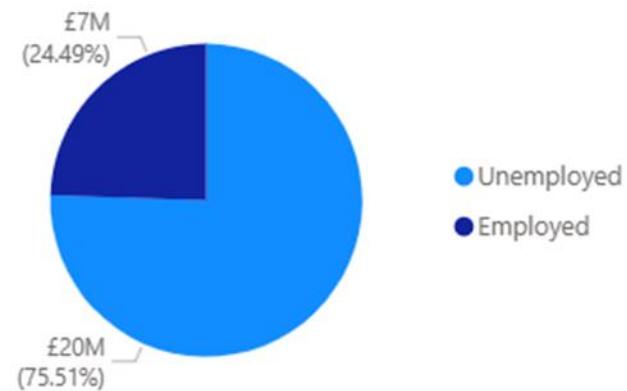


SSA

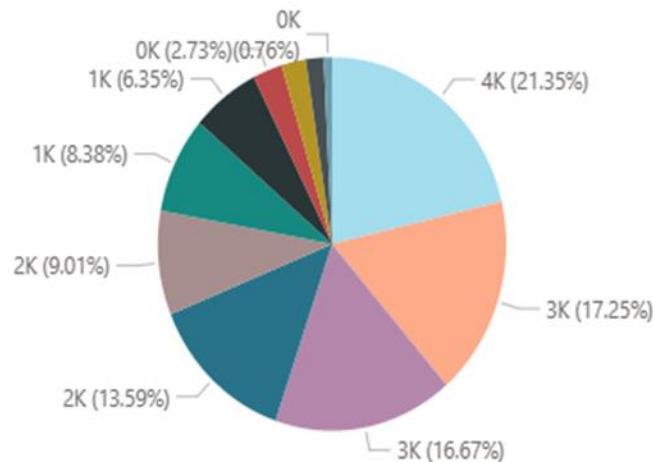


- Preparation for Life and Learning
- Construction, Planning, and Land Use
- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Health, Public Service, and Social Work
- Retail and Commercial Services
- Business, Administration, and Finance
- Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal Care
- Education
- Science and Mathematics

Employment Status



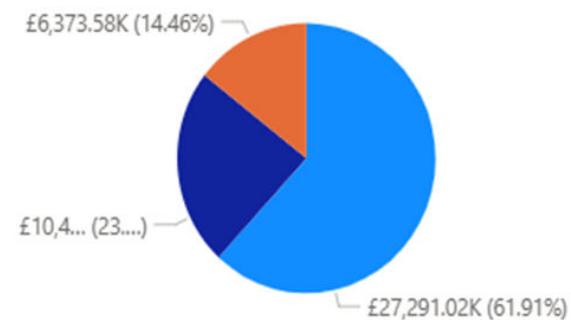
TL Outcomes



Outcome

- Increased confidence
- Improved skills for progress...
- Improved skills for work
- Improved essential skills
- No outcome area 1-10 achi...
- Improved mental health an...
- Improved ability to suppor...
- Improved skills to participa...
- Improved physical health

Funding by Source

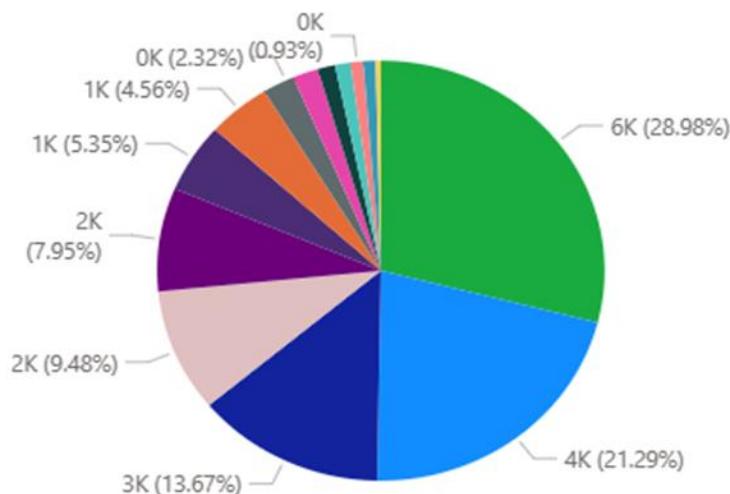
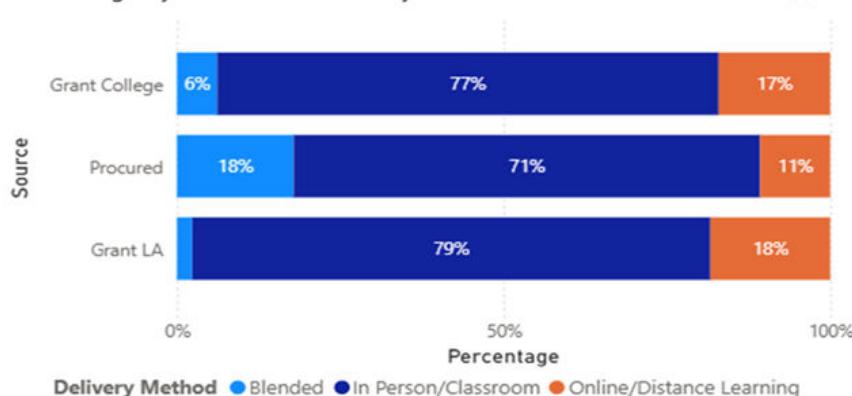


Source

- Grant College
- Grant LA
- Procured

ASF Outcomes

Percentage by Source and Delivery Method

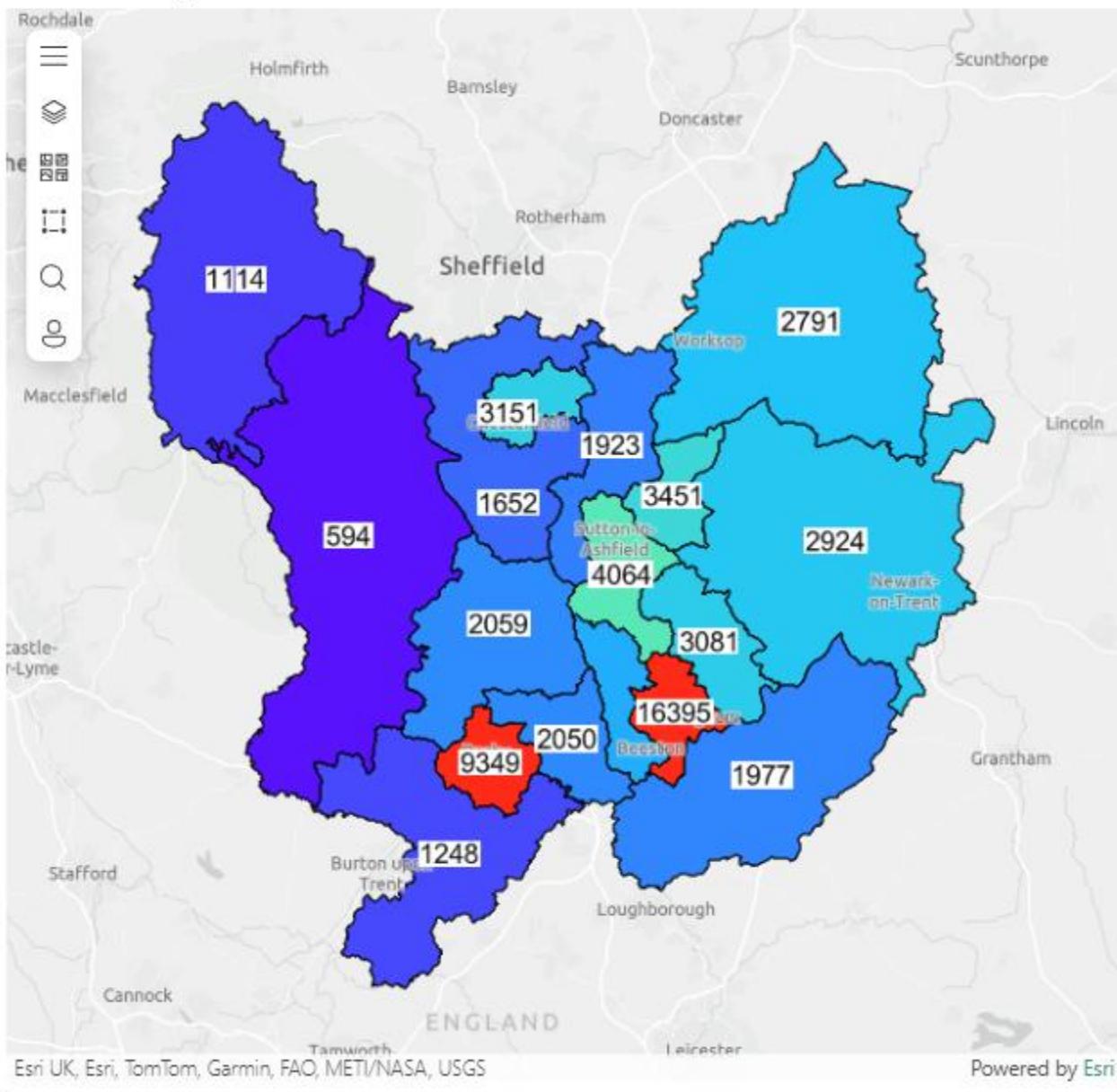


Outcome

- Other FE (Part time)
- In Paid Employment (16+ h..
- Not in Paid Employment (l...
- Not in Paid Employment (...
- Other FE (Fill time)
- Unable to contact learner
- Self-employed (16+ hours)
- Self-employed (> 16 hours)
- HE

Adult Skills Fund - All LOs

Enrolments by District



Nottinghamshire

District	Enrolments
Ashfield	4064
Bassetlaw	2791
Broxtowe	2466
Gedling	3081
Mansfield	3451
Newark and Sherwood	2924
Nottingham	16395
Rushcliffe	1977
Total	37149

Derbyshire

District	Enrolments
Amber Valley	2059
Bolsover	1923
Chesterfield	3151
Derby	9349
Derbyshire Dales	594
Erewash	2050
High Peak	1114
North East Derbyshire	1652
South Derbyshire	1248
Total	23140



Adult Skills - Welding



Nottingham City Council Overview



Nottingham
City Council

Nottingham City Council

An overview of Adult Skills in
Nottingham





Nottingham has a young population and greater portion of its population are of working age

Proportion of 16-34 years olds



31% in Nottingham

24% in United Kingdom

Proportion of working age population



70% in Nottingham

63% in United Kingdom

Working age is defined as people within the age range of 16-64 years old

The young population is driven by strong educational institutions in Nottingham.



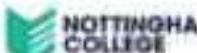
the University of Nottingham



NOTTINGHAM TRENTR UNIVERSITY

c.65,000

Combined student population in the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University



Nottingham College enrolls 25,000 students per year

Nottingham has high rates of working age economic inactivity



32% in

Nottingham

21.5% in
United Kingdom



GVA per worker in Nottingham

£47,740

Lower than the GVA per worker in the UK of £55,465

Median pay in Nottingham is lower than the UK median



c.£22,250 in

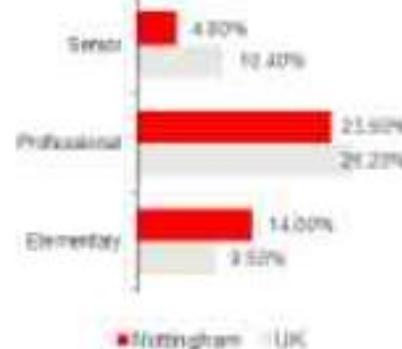
Nottingham

c.£27,750 in

United Kingdom

Nottingham residents are paid, on average, 20% less than the average UK resident

Employment is concentrated on less senior roles in Nottingham



Working population with no qualifications



11% in

Nottingham

7% in United Kingdom

Working population with Level 4+ qualifications



42% in

Nottingham

44% in United Kingdom

Unemployment rate in Nottingham is higher than the UK and East Midlands average



5.0% in

Nottingham

4.2% in United Kingdom

3.3% in East Midlands

Current employment & skills activities in Nottingham



Funded by EMCCA to deliver Tailored Learning to city residents.

All delivery is subcontracted and non-accredited.

Robust contract and quality management processes.

20% increase in enrolments (1272) and 29% increase in the number of unique learners (1148) for 2024/25.

80% of learners are of working age.

Impact is predominantly improved skills, confidence and wellbeing.



Funded by UK Government to deliver intensive one-on-one employment support to residents with long term health conditions.

Residents living in Nottingham City, Broxtowe, Gedling & Rushcliffe.

Support local employers to identify practical solutions for reducing long term absence.

Supported over 900 citizens, which 84% of the programme target.

45% of participants have progressed to employment
<https://www.workingwelleastmidlands.co.uk>

Thrive

Trailblazer funded by UK Government and EMCCA to build the confidence and resilience of young people.

Delivered by Nottingham College, Thrive supports 18-21 year olds who are NEET, living in North or South Nottingham.

Attendance is flexible with delivery taking place in community venues.

The programme supports personal development enabling young people to gain the skills to build positive mindsets, increase confidence and gain employability skills.
<https://tinyurl.com/ypsm3k3t>

Current employment & skills activities in Nottingham

UKSPF

Funded by UK Government and EMCCA to deliver £4.6m of activity for 2025/26.

Funded 25 projects and schemes to local organisations and businesses.

Supporting 1000 economically inactive households with 25% progressing into employment by March 2026.

Engaging 1900 city residents to access basic skills and ESOL with 33% progressing into further education or training.

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ukspf

Additional activities include:

- making best use of Procurement Levy and Section 106
- Connect to Work
- Inclusive Recruitment Hub

Challenges ahead

Nottingham is currently forecast to spend 36% of the total UKSPF People & Skills spend in the EMCCA region.

The council currently allocates 36% of UKSPF on People & Skills activity.

When funding ends in March 2026, there will be significant impact on employment and skills activity in Nottingham.

Currently exploring opportunities to mitigate impact on residents and communities.

Changing lives, improving life chances

1

Emma wanted to improve her confidence and social skills, as well as learning more about her passion for gardening. So, Emma enrolled on a CFL course with Bulwell Forest Gardens (BFG).

Emma's previous experience of education was not good, making her extremely nervous about enrolling. But fortunately, she enjoyed the course so much she progressed onto the follow-up course then sat and passed her Food Hygiene Level 1.

Emma's confidence and self esteem has grown so much that she now volunteers with BFG lunch and gardening team and feels valued for her volunteering contributions.

2

Hassnain, aged 17, was disengaged from education and on bail following a family incident. He was referred to Bestwood Partnership by NCC's Young People's Targeted Intervention team.

Together they developed a long-term action plan including employability coaching, COSHH and Food Safety training. Hassnain attended regular job search sessions and gradually, over a number of weeks was able to rebuild his confidence and motivation.

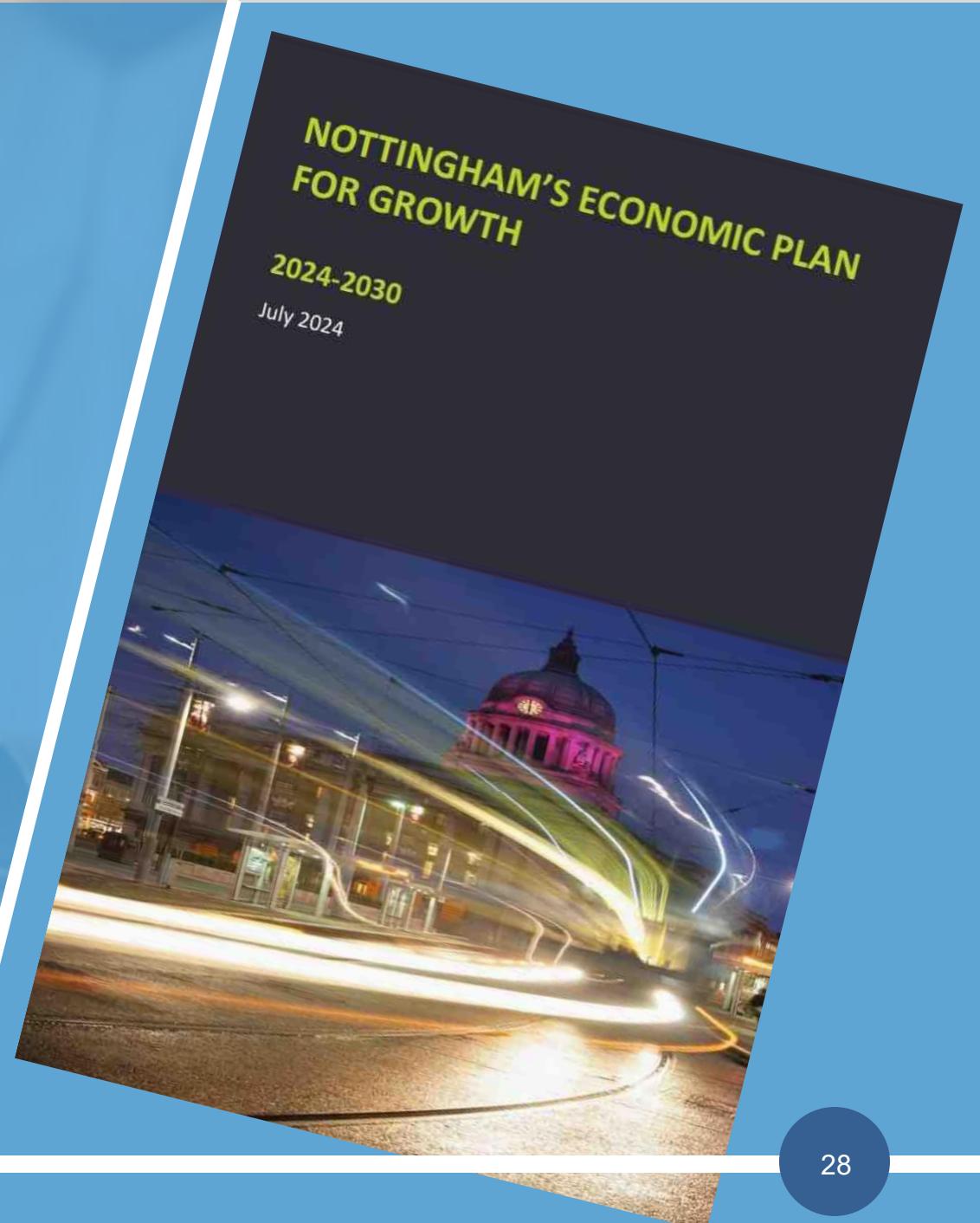
Despite some initial setbacks, Hassnain received his green card and secured a trial shift with Linsco Recruitment, which led to a formal employment contract.



Ambitious Economic Growth Plan

By 2030 we will:

- Facilitate an additional 12,000 new jobs
- Generate £500m additional GVA
- Secure £4bn of regeneration investment
- Develop infrastructure and services for a growing population



Nottingham's Growth Plan sets out 12 strategic priorities:

 <p>People and Skills</p>	<p>Priority 1: Cultivate meaningful employment</p> 	<p>Priority 2: Raise educational attainment</p> 	<p>Priority 3: Enhance employment productivity</p> 
 <p>Enterprise and Investment</p>	<p>Priority 4: Accelerate emerging sectors</p> 	<p>Priority 5: Nurture existing businesses</p> 	<p>Priority 6: Attract new enterprise investment</p> 
 <p>Infrastructure and Regeneration</p>	<p>Priority 7: Drive housing growth</p> 	<p>Priority 8: Heartbeat of the East Midlands</p> 	<p>Priority 9: Enhance connectivity</p> 
 <p>Liveability and Experience</p>	<p>Priority 10: Identify & champion prime regeneration sites</p> 	<p>Priority 11: Flourishing City Centre and Neighbourhoods</p> 	<p>Priority 12: Co-ordinate the visitor offer</p> 



Thank you

Derby City Council Overview

Sharon Buckby

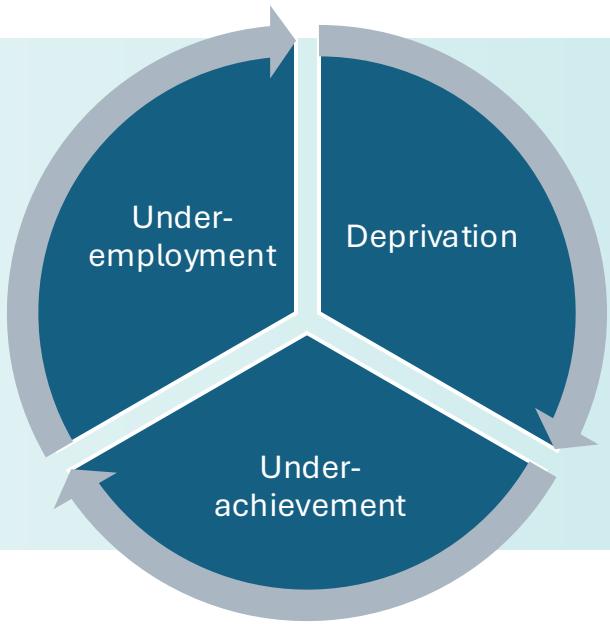


The Derby Promise: Phase 2

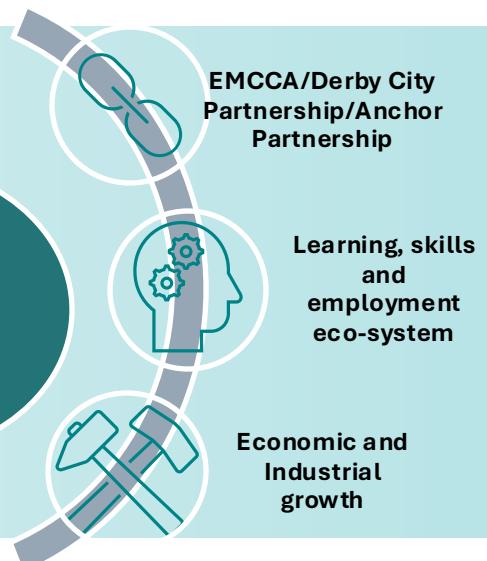


Derby City Council

Breaking the Cycle



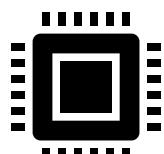
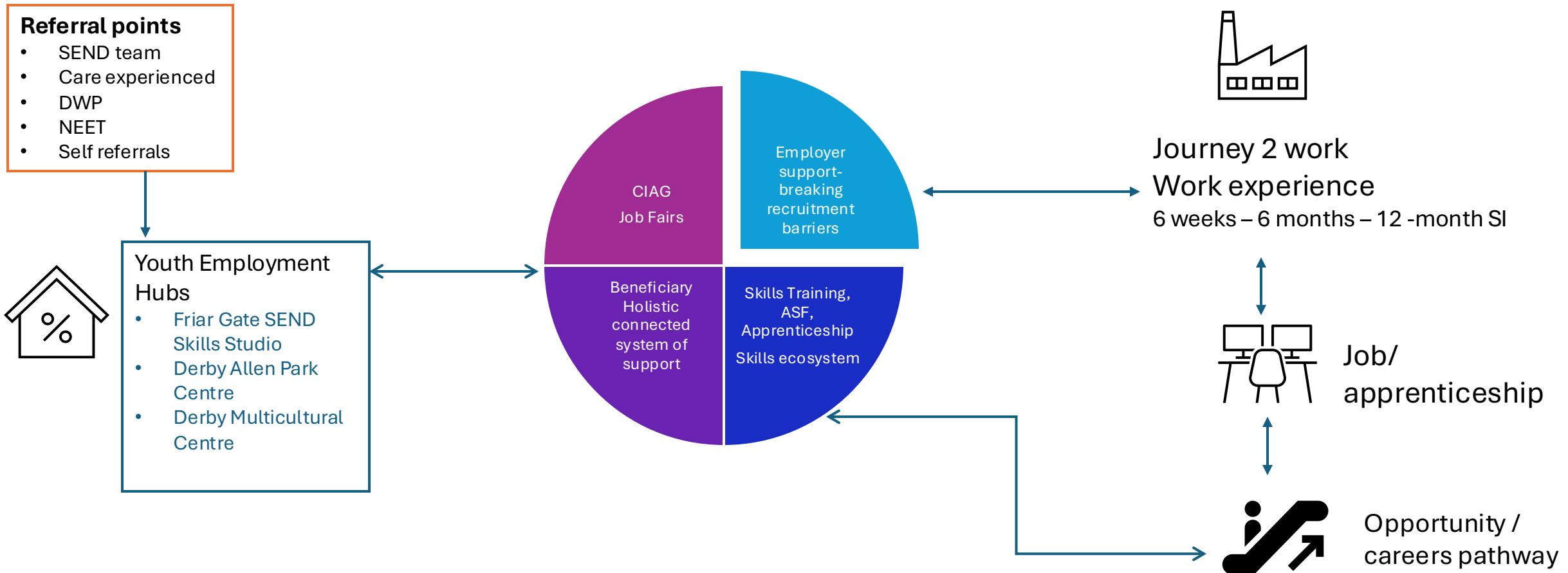
The Derby Promise



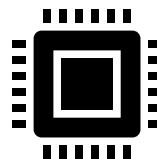
Improved Outcomes



Get Derby Working



Youth Guarantee
16-24



Connect 2 Work
18+



Derby City Council

Get Derby Working

With our employers

- Different pathways to success – accept the zig zag, create the Derby switch
- Different recruitment practices
- Different approach to anchor/supply chain working
- Different approach in work experience/progression to better jobs
- Different ways at looking at qualifications required for roles
- Creating the Derby Opportunity Escalator local skills ecosystem match to employers
- Underpin this through social value
- Support for employers and young people to sustain outcomes



Derby City Council

Journey 2 Work

- A multi-funded approach to supporting jobseekers into employment
- Combines:
 - Work experience - sourced and managed by our UKSPF funded Business Engagement Team
 - Employability Training – delivered by our ASF funded tutors
 - 121 Supported Employment Support – funded by our Youth Guarantee TB and UKSPF funded delivery staff

The combination enables the jobseeker to gain employability skills, work experience, increase confidence and receive the wrap-around support to transition into employment.



Derby City Council

Harry



- 20 years old has Autism
- Referred from DEA DWP Team
- Assigned SEO Tuybia
- Wanted to work in Early Years
- Journey to Work secured Work Placement in Early Years setting: Little Angels St Andrews
- J2W increased his confidence and skills
- Following J2W applied and secured apprenticeship at Old Forge Nursery
- “I am really pleased Tuybia spoke to me about the Journey to Work Programme and grateful for all her support. I know I would not have been able to get my apprenticeship if it was not for Journey to Work

Angel



- 19 years old, referred by the Leaving Care team
- Suffered from Anxiety and MH issues – was on UC and PIP and was difficult to engage on the programme.
- SEO discussed Journey to Work as Angel had the grades for the Apprenticeship linked to this Journey to Work Placement
- J2W created a supportive environment, raising confidence and reducing her anxiety.
- Angel thrived in the ASF funded employability sessions, where she formed new friendships and benefitted from the peer support.
- Angel was well liked on placement with Derby City Council Reprographics – they brought their Apprenticeship start date forward and offered it to Angel.
- Angel is now an L3 in Business Admin Apprentice at DCC.

Please see video here [Angel Journey 2 Work Case Study | September 2025](#)



Questions



Derby City Council

Ofsted Update

Julie Ashton



Education inspection framework

Our renewed approach



Ofsted

raising standards
improving lives

Welcome

Julie Ashton – SHMI, East Midlands and
East of England





Outline of session

- Moving forward: our new approach
- What the changes mean for further education and skills
- Questions



Moving forward: renewed approach

Our new approach



Breaking
barriers to
learning

Improved
reporting

More
collaboration



More focus
on well-
being



Consistent
approach

Providing
constructive
advice



Different by
design



We will evaluate FES providers against the following:

Whole provider level

- Safeguarding (met or not met)
- Inclusion
- Leadership and governance
- Contribution to meeting skills needs (as applicable)

Provision type level

- Curriculum, teaching and training
- Achievement
- Participation and development



In FES we will look at inclusion by...

- speaking with leaders, learners and apprentices
- using relevant data to understand learners' contexts
- case sampling to evaluate how support works in practice
- learning walks to evaluate inclusion in action.



Inspections will look and feel different

- **Context** taken into account.
- A more **collaborative** approach.
- A **consistent** approach to inspection.
- **Constructive** advice with clear recommendations on what to improve.
- A continued **focus on well-being**.



FES full inspection notification

- From November we will be introducing an **extended notice period** for all providers.
- Everyone will now receive normally **five to six working days' notice** before their full inspection.

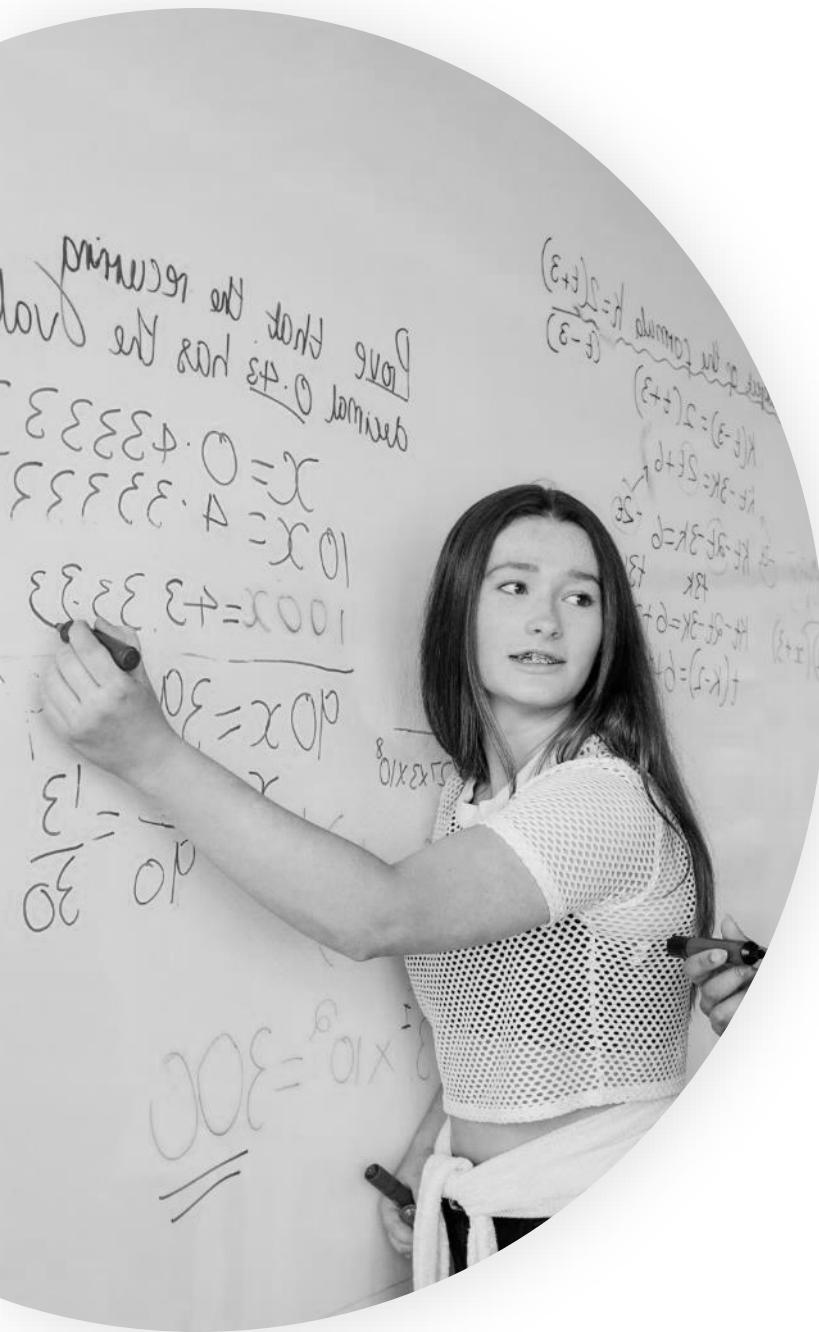


Contribution to meeting skills needs

- Continues to apply to FE colleges, sixth form colleges and designated institutions only.
- Full range of grades available.
- No skills nominee.
- Revised inspection activities.



What the changes mean for further education and skills



Inspecting EPYP

- How learners' contexts shape leaders' approach to inclusion.
- Sources of evidence of achievement.
- English and mathematics qualifications.
- Attendance and behaviour.
- Pastoral needs of learners.
- Work-related learning.



Inspecting adult learning

- How learners' contexts shape leaders' approach to inclusion.
- Curriculum, teaching and training.
- Sources of evidence of achievement.
- Pastoral needs of adult learners.
- Age-appropriate participation and development.



Inspecting apprenticeships

- How apprentices' contexts shape leaders' approach to inclusion
- Attendance and behaviour
- Pastoral needs of apprentices
- Age-appropriate participation and development
- Governance and oversight
- Relationships and partnerships



Inspecting programmes for learners with high needs

- How learners' contexts shape leaders' approach to inclusion.
- Pastoral needs of learners.
- Working in partnership.
- Sources of evidence of achievement.
- Age-appropriate participation and development.



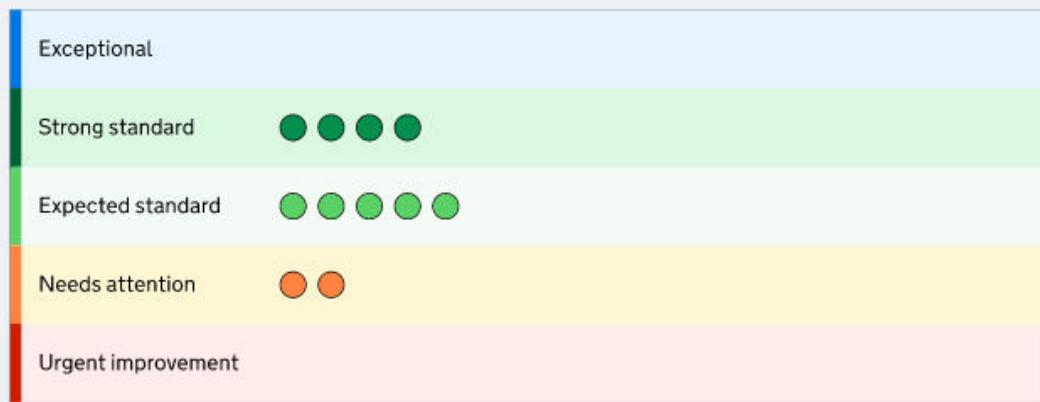
After inspection

Further Education and Skills Provider

Address: School Lane, Old Town, Home County, HC4 5DF

Unique reference number (URN): EG12345

Inspection report: 25 June 2024



Safeguarding standards met

[Show](#)

1. Inclusion, leadership and governance

[Show](#)

2. Adult learning programmes

[Show](#)

Report Cards

- Our new report Card will make findings clear and accessible.
- The report card will provide a summary overview as well as a detailed explanation for each of the evaluation areas the provider has been evaluated against.
- Colours ranging from red, for urgent improvement, to blue, for exceptional will provide a visual overview.
- The next steps will be written in a constructive way to make clear what the improvement priorities are for the provider/phase.



Questions

Thank you

— ..

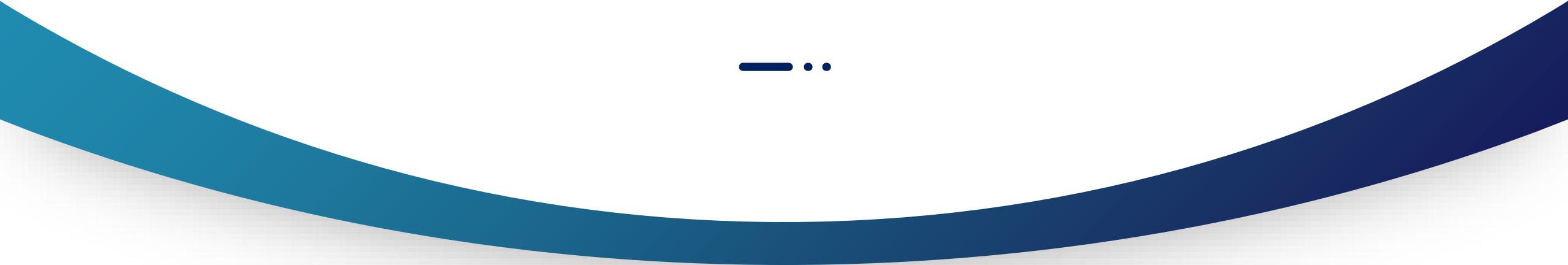


Table Activity no 1

Effective and impactful Collaboration



Lunch

Derbyshire County Council

Louise Wilson

EMCCA Adult Skills Conference

Louise Wilson

Economic Development Manager

Derbyshire Framework for Growth



Commissioned by the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leaders Board (D2 SLB). Approved at September 2025 Board meeting



Created in consultation with all Derbyshire Local Authorities and the city



Enables Derbyshire authorities to influence EMCCA policy and funding decisions



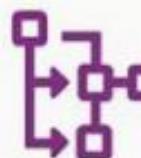
Has a number of cross-cutting themes, including "Reducing Inequality and Increasing Social Mobility"



Nine priority sectors that are viewed as essential for supporting economic growth



Also has a number of Programme Areas, including "Providing Access to High Quality Employment and Skills Opportunities"



Is supported by a Pipeline of investment Projects, which includes planned Derbyshire projects, split down via Programme Area

Growth & Skills Adult Apprenticeship Funding 2024/25

In 2024/25 Derbyshire County Council supported local SME businesses to create new opportunities and to upskill their existing workforce across the County.



104

Adult Apprenticeship Starts



41

Derbyshire SME businesses supported



£600,000

Invested in Workforce Growth and Skills

For further details: [Growth and skills adult apprenticeship funding - Derbyshire County Council](#)

YES Derbyshire (Youth Employment Support)



Supports NEET young people (16-24) across Derbyshire



Offers tailored support, jobs, training, apprenticeships, volunteering & wellbeing



Funded by Department for Work and Pensions & Derbyshire County Council



Hubs in Chesterfield, Erewash & Swadlincote (virtual support across the county)



Engages 600+ young people annually



Each hub includes a Youth Work Coach from DWP, IAG Officer, Disability Employment Service

YES Derbyshire Impacts (Youth Employment Support)



Engagements
- 669



Accessed
Specialist Support
- 131



Gained employment
/ apprenticeship
- 227



Progressed to work
experience,
volunteering or
training - 333

Derbyshire Business Start-Up Support Scheme



A fully funded program for pre-starts and businesses trading up to 12 months in Derbyshire (excluding Erewash) providing business advice.

With grant funding available for pre-start and new businesses

- £500 (non match funded)
- £501 - £10,000 (match funded)

Outcomes: April 2025 - Present

- 561 Pre-Start or New Businesses Enrolled
- 30.5 new jobs created
- £202,176.14 in grant funding awarded to 57 businesses



Funded by
UK Government

CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS

East Midlands
Combined County
Authority

Ambition

The ten Derbyshire authorities are ambitious for the future of the local economy. The overall ambition is that by 2040:

“Derby and Derbyshire will be a place where all of our residents are able to access high quality skills and employment opportunities regardless of their background; a place where innovation is supported, where businesses want to be, and have the ability to grow and implement new ideas and ways of working; where the value of high quality places and spaces is recognised, attracting people and investment from around the world.

Louise Wilson

Economic Development Manager

Thank you!



Nottinghamshire County Council

Sonja Smith

Nottinghamshire



Sonja Smith



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Nottinghamshire, a county of strengths and unique opportunities...



Nottinghamshire County Council

Economic Context...



- Total population – 857,017
- Working population (16-64) – 520,294 (61%)
- Economically Active 22%
- Unemployed 10,200
- Business Base 27,230 of which 89% are micro employing less than 10 people and 0.4% (105) employing over 250
- 33.3% of population has NVQ L4 or above, but this varies across the County
- 8.2% of population have no qualifications
- 2 Universities
- Gross weekly pay - £731 (ranging from £636 to £856)



What does the data tell us...

Economic inactivity
above national
average

Persistent skills
shortages faced by
employers

Working age
population qualified
to L2 and L3 below
national average

Working age
population qualified
to L4 and above 10%
below national
average

Productivity below
national average

Pockets of
deprivation

Continued demand
for high volumes of
jobs in health, retail
and manufacturing
to 2030

Growing and
emergent
technologies

Green and digital
jobs



Employment and Skills Framework

Key Themes:

- Skills for entry and progression: Provide education and training for all ages to start and advance careers.
- Inclusive access: Remove barriers for underrepresented groups and those furthest from the labour market.
- Business support: Help employers attract, develop, and retain talent.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship: Encourage enterprise and adaptability in a changing economy.

Objectives:

- Promote job creation and economic growth through sector prioritisation and investment.
- Enhance employability via apprenticeships, work-based learning, and career guidance.
- Ensure equity of access to employment opportunities.
- Support businesses with workforce development and resilience.
- Foster stakeholder collaboration and lifelong learning, including digital skills.



Working collaboratively - Benefits For Us All



- Inclusive growth
- Higher skilled workforce
- Increased economic activity
- Reduced unemployment
- Better quality of life
- Less labour shortages
- Address Skills Gaps
- Business Growth
- More high paid jobs
- Increased productivity



Thank you!

Careers Hub

Tina Patel – Careers Programmes Lead

EMCCA Careers Hub Introduction

What's the Careers Hub all about

- The Careers Hub is part of a national programme helping schools and colleges offer better, more meaningful careers education. Our job is to bridge the gap between education and employment – making sure students get the chance to meet real employers, understand real jobs, and build the skills they'll need in the workplace.
- By working with us, you're not just giving back – you're helping to shape a more prepared, motivated and skilled future workforce.
- The EMCCA Careers Hub plays a key role in this – by connecting schools, colleges and employers to improve careers education and help young people develop the skills local industries need.



EMCCA Careers Hub

- Covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire
- **175** schools and colleges (including **30+** SEND and AP schools)
- Growing Primary School Network
- **300+** EMCCA Employer Partners
- **166** EMCCA Employer Advisors
- **15** EMCCA Strategic Employer Partners



EMCCA Careers Hub Priorities

25-26 Careers Hub Priorities

Inclusive Growth – Tackling Disadvantage

Careers Education
Support



Employer
Connections



Skills & pathways



High-quality work
experience



What is EMCCA's Youth Ambition

- Empower every young person to achieve their potential by addressing barriers, championing inclusivity, and aligning resources across the region.

Through innovative policies, impactful programmes, and strong partnerships, we amplify youth voices, realise aspirations, and drive social and economic prosperity.

- **EMCCA Youth Guarantee Trailblazer**

- To work collaboratively with deliver partners to test eight holistic projects with the aim of supporting NEET/ at risk of NEET young people to improve their education, employment and training prospects. Cohort of NEET YP is primarily 18-21 year olds* (one project covering age17-25)
- The programme will support approximately 1800 young people across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham City and Derby City.



Gatsby Benchmarks – the changes for ITPs

The inclusion of ITPs reflects the government's recognition of the "vital role" training providers play in further education. With Skills England's expanding remit and the new Growth and Skills Levy, ITPs are increasingly seen as key players in addressing skills gaps and supporting economic growth not only for young people but for adults too



What are the changes in the Gatsby Benchmarks for ITPs?

The changes in the Gatsby Benchmarks mean for Independent Training Providers (ITPs) that they are now expected to align with the updated benchmarks to deliver high-quality careers education for 16–18-year olds

The eight benchmarks are:

- A stable careers programme - You need a structured, published careers programme **with senior leadership backing**
- Learning from career and labour market information - Providing **current, relevant labour market data** to learners
- Addressing the needs of each young person - **Personalised support, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners**
- Linking curriculum learning to careers - Every programme should **connect to career pathways**
- Encounters with employers and employees - **At least 2 meaningful employer encounters** per year for each learner
- Experiences of workplaces - **Hands-on workplace experiences** for all learners
- Encounters with further and higher education - Exposing learners to the **full range of progression routes**
- Personal guidance - **Access to qualified careers advisers for one-to-one support**

Gatsby Benchmarks

- **Immediate Actions:**
- Appoint a careers leader with appropriate training and protected time
- Develop and publish a careers programme on your website
- Ensure senior leadership backing - this isn't something you can delegate to a junior member of staff
- Start tracking your provision against all eight benchmarks
- Effective Information Advice and Guidance for learners, track, monitor and review
- The CEC has created a suite of resources to support ITPs with a checklist

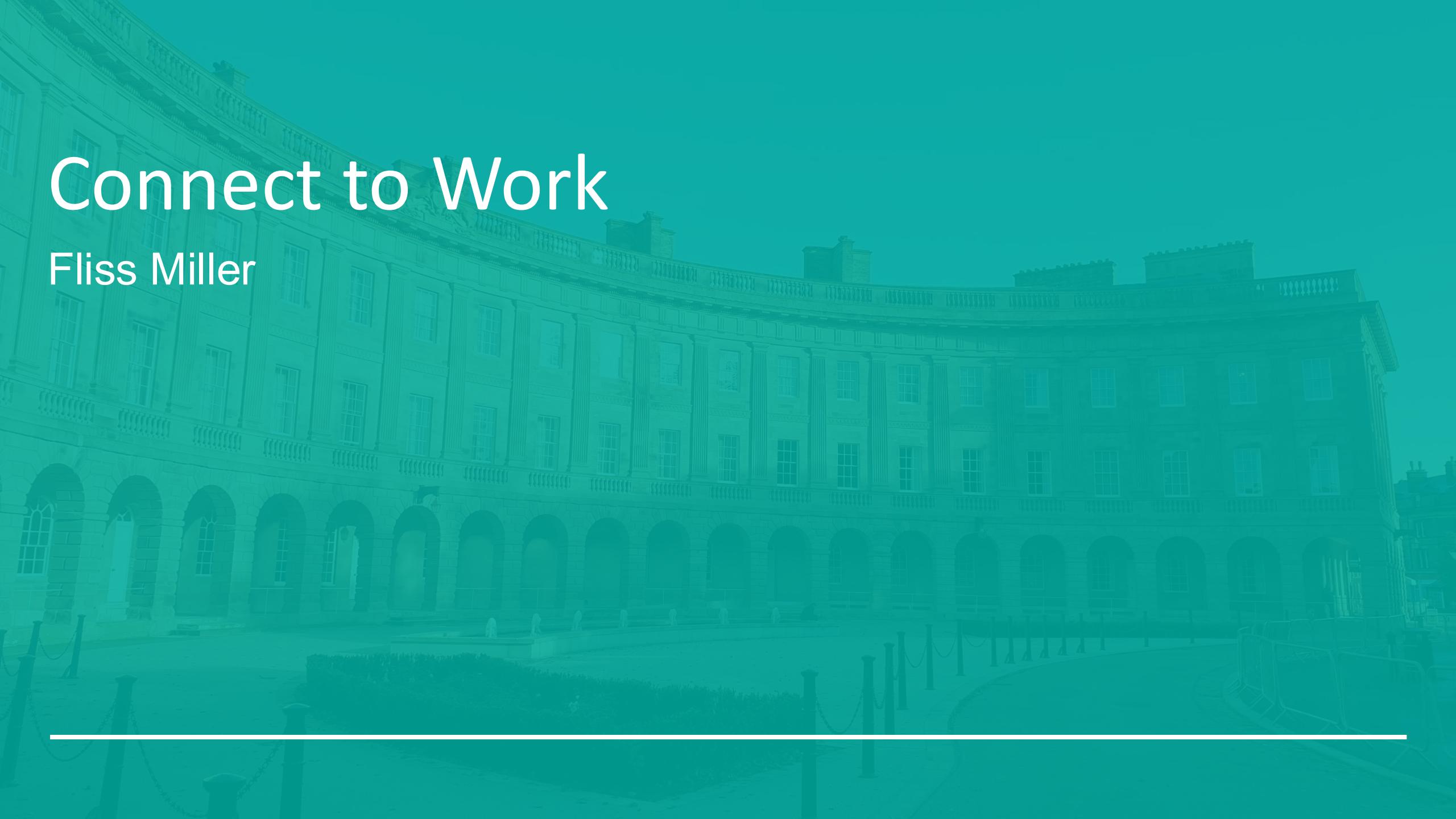
Contact us

- emccacareershub@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk



Connect to Work

Fliss Miller



What is Connect To Work

- **Connect to Work is part of the “Get Britain Working” strategy:** It’s the first major initiative under this government agenda, aiming to reduce economic inactivity by offering tailored, ongoing support to those with long-term health conditions and those dealing with complex employment barrier.
- Connect to work is based on evidence-backed Supported Employment frameworks, specifically “place, train, and maintain,” delivered through:
 - Individual Placement and Support (IPS)
 - Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)
- DWP has allocated EMCCA £44.2 million over the programme duration





EMCCA - Connect To Work Goals

- In the East Midlands, the employment rate is currently at 76.3%
- EMCCA is committed to achieving the national, long-term target of an 80% employment rate among working age people.
- EMCCA is working with its constituent authorities and partners on a multi-year plan to tackle economic inactivity, through our Get the East Midlands Working plan. This plan was published in October 2025

Connect to Work will use the supported employment model, known as “place then train”:

- Individuals are supported to find paid work quickly, rather than after extended job preparation activities.
- After vocational profiling an action plan to get individuals back to work will be created as part of a one-to-one coaching session with an employment specialist.
- Employment specialists will support individuals with CV preparation, interview guidance, and coordinating any workplace needs with employers.
- Employment specialists will then continue to support the individual and their employer to make the work placement successful.





Two variants of the supported employment model in Connect to Work:

Individual Placement and Support (IPS): An evidence-based model of supported employment that helps people with mental health conditions and other complex needs find and retain paid, competitive jobs. It is widely used in the UK, particularly within the NHS and local authority drug and alcohol treatment services.

Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF): A UK-developed framework that sets out the principles, standards, and practices to deliver high-quality supported employment for people with disabilities, health conditions, or other barriers to work.

IPS and **SEQF** each have their own fidelity scale, EMCCA will work with providers to assess and improve their fidelity.

75% of delivery will be under the IPS model and **25%** will be under SEQF.

Connect to Work – Integration with Partners

Delivery partners are expected to engage with stakeholders at all levels including:

- Other delivery partners
- Health services - Community groups, primary care networks, Secondary care services
- Jobcentre Plus
- VCSE organisations
- Participants

Through Connect to Work, this collective commitment will deepen relationships and drive a clear shift toward integrated, collaborative partnership working, moving beyond siloed approaches.





Connect To Work Referral Route

- Participants can express their interest in the programme via an expression of interest form.
- Expressions of interest will be routed to the most appropriate delivery partner based on location and primary barrier (these can be re-assigned if required). This will also ensure they are on the most appropriate employment model.
- CTW will run in the EMCCA region from 1st January 2026 until 31st March 2030, the final referrals accepted by 31st March 2029 to allow for 12 months of delivery before the programme closes.

Connect To Work - Expected

Impact

Regional Reach and Scale

- 12,243 residents supported across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (2026 – 2030)
- Nearly 4,000 people per year at peak

Support for Economically Inactive Groups

- Focus on long-term health conditions, disabilities, and complex barriers
- 30.2% cite long-term sickness as main reason for inactivity

System Transformation

- Integration of health and employment services
- Builds on Chesterfield and Mansfield pilot sites

Economic and Social Impact

- Supports inclusive economy and 80% employment rate goal
- Improves workplace health
- Boosts economic growth



Connect To Work Status Update

- Delivery Plan and Grant Cost Register have been signed off by DWP.
- The procurement process for the two delivery partners is nearing completion, with the preferred bidder set to be announced in late November
- The programme is on track to go-live of the 1st of January
- The CRM system has been chosen, and the contract will be awarded once the grant funding agreement has been signed off



Any questions?

Contact

Please address future queries and general requests for information to:
Connect to Work Team
connecttowork@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk



Table Activity no 2

Progression and tracking ASF/FCfJ
Skills Bootcamps Business Engagement

Adult Skills Conference

Thank you for coming

CLAIRES WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS

