

**#TRANSFORMINGLIVES**

Hartlepool College  
of Further Education



Hartlepool College of Further Education  
Annual Accountability Statement 2023/24

## Purpose

Hartlepool College of Further Education's (referred to from hereon as 'the College') mission is *Excellence in Further and Higher Education to Transform students' lives*. Closely aligned to this mission, and something which drives everything we do, is the fact the College has the highest expectations for every student. For the mission to begin to be delivered, it is imperative the College provides an environment which is inclusive and safe for our learners. Inclusive in terms of the curriculum coverage where the intent will be to provide an offer which meets the needs of a diverse range of students – from those with high levels of need who, for whatever reason, did not get a chance to excel at school to those who wish to undertake higher level professional & technical qualifications. With this in mind, the College's intent is to offer a broad curriculum covering a variety of professional and technical subjects.

Safe in terms of providing an environment where issues related to social disadvantage can be discussed without stigma, appropriate support can be provided but where expectations are not lowered. Safe also in terms of the students' physical and mental health when it comes to recognising and promoting health & safety rights and responsibilities.

From this key foundation of providing a safe environment; a key driver of the College's intent is to ensure every student gains the necessary knowledge, skills, qualifications, behaviours, attitude and confidence to exploit the opportunities available upon leaving the College. All of the College's students will progress into the world of work. For some, this progression might occur quickly via an apprenticeship programme. For others, higher education might be the immediate aim before entering employment. Regardless of which route is taken, the College's intent is to ensure students are ready to meet the challenges they will inevitably face and to nurture students as proactive citizens.

An essential part of the College's intent is to ensure the College plays a key role in the community and to ensure the curriculum is closely aligned to local and regional labour market intelligence. The College's curriculum has been built around the strategic economic plans of the Tees Valley Combined Authority as well as the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. Both strategic economic plans chime with supra-regional plans of the Northern Powerhouse which highlight health/life sciences, energy, advanced manufacturing and digital as key sectors. Furthermore, enabling sectors of construction and professional services are also key.

Hartlepool College of Further Education aims to:

- Strategic Aim 1: deliver teaching, learning and assessment practice which results in outstanding outcomes for all learners.
- Strategic Aim 2: offer a curriculum that is aspirational and meets the needs of learners, parents/carers, employers, and stakeholders.
- Strategic Aim 3: to develop a culture as a form of competitive advantage.
- Strategic Aim 4: deploy an effective and efficient resource to support and promote outstanding provision.
- Strategic Aim 5: develop and sustain transformational stakeholder partnerships.

Since its publication, national skills policy has developed further, therefore this annual accountability statement takes account of these changes, including the introduction of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in the Tees Valley and North East regions that are expected to be published at the end of July 2023.

The North East England Chamber of Commerce was successful in securing a LSIP Trailblazer and subsequent LSIP in Tees Valley whilst the North East Automotive Alliance secured the LSIP in the North East region. In parallel, the College, alongside other Tees Valley colleges, have secured two Strategic Development Fund pilots, focused on construction and digital skills.

The College is also implementing a significant capital investment programme, drawing on funds such as the Town Deal fund (working closely with our Borough Council partners), T Level Capital Funding, and FE Capital Transformation Fund. This investment will support an improved infrastructure across the College's estate to deliver a specialised curriculum linked to local and regional needs.

### **Context and Place – The communities we serve**

The College resides in the unitary authority of Hartlepool which is within the economic sub-region of the Tees Valley and on the border of County Durham, part of the North East economic sub-region. The College views itself as a key provider to both these sub-regions.

The College is one of four post-sixteen providers that are based within the local authority, two are school sixth forms and the other was previously a standalone sixth form College which is now part of a larger further education College group. In addition, a wide variety of training providers deliver provision to businesses and residents within the same catchment area.

Hartlepool has many challenges, and the College has a critical role in addressing both the economic and skills/qualification aspects. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 categorises the town as the tenth most deprived authority in England.

Furthermore, a North East Child Poverty research report highlighted some 39% of children in Hartlepool are living in poverty based on research carried out in 2020/21. The College has witnessed a growth in learners living in these most deprived postcodes with a 3.8%p increase from 47.5% of all learners in 2020/21 to 51.3% of all learners in 2021/22 living in the country's most deprived areas.

The College had c4,200 classroom enrolments for College-based courses. Of those, c1,400 are 16-18-year-olds. All 16-18-year-olds follow a programme of study of some kind and discipline. The College does not currently deliver traineeships.

Adult provision equates to c2,700 enrolments (a significant increase of c400 over the last two years) of the College's overall enrolment. Adults study a wide variety of qualifications in a similarly wide variety of methods. Programmes linked to future employment, a strategic objective of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), provide the largest proportion of this work meaning the majority of adult learners reside within the boundary of the Tees Valley.

The College's apprenticeship provision is a large proportion of the overall provision and of strategic importance to the College's career-focused curriculum. At the time of writing, there are c1050 people enrolled on apprenticeship programmes at the College. It is apprenticeships that have the widest geographical spread of employer partners and learners with a third of all apprenticeships being delivered to companies outside of the Tees Valley sub-region. The majority of these are with companies\* in the Co. Durham (19%) and Tyne and Wear (14%) areas of the North East

The College continues to have a career-focused curriculum. Delivering across 13 of the 15 subject sector areas with the largest volume in the engineering and manufacturing sector, followed by the construction and health sectors.

\*based upon the levy address of the employer

## Approach to developing the annual accountability statement

The College's annual accountability statement is a governor-led document that combines a wide variety of operational and strategic planning activity and documentation. These include, but not extensively:

- The annual governors' strategic planning event – where governors assess, amongst other things, the College's role in meeting local, regional and national skills demands.
- The annual cycle of self-assessment – provides governors with in-depth analysis of the College's performance across all areas.
- Regular review of the College's strategic objectives.
- Regular review, by the Curriculum & Standards committee, of the College's progress against the objectives of its supporting strategies (specifically the Curriculum & Skills and Stakeholder strategy in relations to the annual accountability statement.
- Operational and strategic involvement in local, regional and national policy development.

Locally, the College, at a senior level, has been involved in consulting on the Local Authority's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022 – 2025. This builds upon a strong working partnership that has seen, in recent years, a public consultation on the adult learning curriculum each organisation provides and a subsequent sharing of best practice and combining of resources to deliver a larger, more inclusive adult education offer.

Regionally, the College has forged excellent relationships with the employer representative bodies driving the Tees Valley and North East Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP) - the North East England Chamber of Commerce and the North East Automotive Alliance, respectively. The College has been heavily involved in the consultation process, having meetings with both to discuss how the curriculum can contribute to meeting the demands of the LSIP findings with a specific focus on the Construction & Civil Engineering Academy and the Health & Care Academy the College have partnered with employers Seymour Civil Engineering and North Tees & Hartlepool NHS, respectively. In the Tees Valley, the work of the LSIP builds upon a strong working relationship the College has developed with the combined authority to more than double the volume of adults being educated in skill-related qualifications. This work has largely focused on the transition to employment in priority areas of manufacturing, engineering, construction and health.

Nationally, the College has carefully considered policy change and national priorities, this can be evidenced in the Strategic Plan and a number of its supporting strategies. These important documents are aligned to the Government's *Skills for Jobs Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth* and the subsequent *Skills and Post-16 Education Act*. They include, amongst other things:

- The expansion of consultation with employers through the creation of Industry Advisory Boards
- The expansion of routes into technical education through the creation of T levels and Higher Technical Qualifications
- Capital development investment in facilities for construction, manufacturing, engineering and health with a specific focus on the development of key green and digital skills.

## Our contribution to national, regional and local priorities

These aims relate to a combination of strategic objectives selected from the College's strategic plan and its six subsidiary strategies that best reflect the College's contribution to national, regional and local priorities.

College Strategic Aims and Objectives	Contribution to national, regional and local priorities	Reference to: Strategic Plan [SP] Tees Valley LSIP [TV LSIP] National Priorities [NP]
<p><b><i>Strategic aim 1: To deliver teaching, learning and assessment practice which results in outstanding outcomes for all learners</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement rates for young people, adults and apprentices are of a very high level</li> <li>Learners have positive progression into further learning, higher learning or employment.</li> <li>Develop digital skills across all curriculum areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to drive improvements in teaching, learning and assessment to ensure more students achieve their chosen qualifications.</li> <li>Continue to focus on the development of essential skills in English, maths and digital for all learners. Increasing by 5% the number of students achieving these qualifications in 2023/24.</li> <li>Improve positive progression for all to 90% by August 2024 for all College students. Increase progression to employment for adults in the Tees Valley to 72% in 2023/24.</li> </ul>	<p>SP</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p>
<p><b><i>Strategic aim 2: To offer a curriculum that is aspirational and meets the needs of learners, parents/carers, employers and stakeholders</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a comprehensive T level curriculum offer.</li> <li>Develop a clean energy curriculum.</li> <li>Develop and then enhance the <i>Higher Education in Hartlepool</i> offer</li> <li>Implement digital advancements in all curriculum areas and standalone qualifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing 6 new T Level routes in 2023/24 in Construction x 2, Engineering x 2, Health and Early Years.</li> <li>Through unit selection, add 'green' knowledge and skills to our existing curriculum. For example, in Aviation, Travel and Tourism teachers will deliver units on sustainable travel whilst in Construction and the Built Environment teachers will select and deliver a curriculum on 'green technologies' for sustainable construction methods.</li> <li>Develop a clean energy curriculum in the pursuit of Net Zero. Working with employer partners to create new provision with a particular focus on Hydrogen</li> <li>Through the curriculum and skills strategy, support the actions set out in the College's IT &amp; Digital strategy.</li> <li>Audit all existing qualifications, adding sector specific digital units wherever available.</li> <li>With key partners, develop an essential digital skills suite of qualifications to support our local community.</li> <li>Enhance the higher technical offer at the College – increasing the number of local people that study at higher education level in Hartlepool.</li> </ul>	<p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p>
<p><b><i>Strategic aim 3: to develop a culture as a form of competitive advantage</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a comprehensive programme of staff development with a specific focus on increasing sector-related knowledge and skill through industry insight experiences.</li> <li>Deliver a series of generic and curriculum specific recruitment events.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To attract and recruit the workforce of the future</li> <li>To engage, develop and retain high performing staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in digital technologies and associated staff training across all curriculum areas</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Strategic aim 4: To deploy an effective and efficient resource to support and promote exemplary provision</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the Care Academy with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>Open a state-of-the-art facility that will further enhance the College's curriculum offer in engineering and manufacturing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the Care Academy with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to meet the Government's agenda for new and replacement public sector roles whilst servicing the Tees Valley's largest employment sector</li> <li>Open a state-of-the-art facility that will further enhance the College's curriculum offer in engineering and manufacturing. Supply highly skilled individuals to the clean energy sector and businesses expected in the Tees Valley as part of the Freeport developments.</li> </ul>	<p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p>
<p><b><i>Strategic aim 5: To develop and sustain transformational stakeholder partnerships</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Industry advisory boards to cover all curriculum areas</li> <li>Work in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council to develop an aspirational and inclusive adult offer</li> <li>Work collaboratively with partners on future investment that supports all strategic aims/objectives (E.g LSIF).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play an active role in the development of the LSIP delivering LSIF curriculum and skills that are aligned to the strategic objectives of the College.</li> <li>Work in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council to develop an aspirational and inclusive offer that improves the lives and life chances of the adult population of Hartlepool.</li> <li>Develop further the Higher Education in Hartlepool offer to address the disparity between attainment levels against national averages working with the Teesside University College Partnership.</li> <li>Continue to develop an employer led curriculum offer in the school of Employer Services that improves attainment whilst at the same time tackling unemployment.</li> <li>Increase the number of Industry Advisory Boards to include Health, Construction and Professional services.</li> </ul>	<p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p> <p>SP/TV LSIP/NP</p>

### **Corporation Statement**

On behalf of the Hartlepool College of Further Education Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that the college accountability statement as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at their meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The plan is published on the College's website and can be accessed from the following link  
<https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/college/governance-%26-finance>

### **Supporting Documentation**

College Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

Curriculum & Skills Strategy 2022 – 2025

Chair of Governors: Stuart Irvine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Irvine', with a stylized, cursive script.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Principal & Chief Executive: Darren Hankey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Hankey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023