
WEST LANCASHIRE COLLEGE – ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2024/25

West Lancashire College Purpose

West Lancashire College has a pivotal role in providing vocational and technical education in West Lancashire and the surrounding area, its purpose is to deliver NCGs mission and strategy in a way that meets the needs of our local context. Our vision is to position West Lancashire College at the heart of our local community, being recognised for the work we do supporting social mobility through a skills and careers focussed curriculum that connects individuals to opportunities and enables people to fulfil their potential. Our strategy has been formed within the framework of NCGs Strategic Pillars and is aligned to the Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan. Within this context we have 5 strategic objectives:

1. Exceptional Learning
2. Innovative and Responsive Curriculum
3. Skilled and high performing workforce
4. Inspiring Learning Environment
5. Partnership and Collaboration

West Lancashire College Context and Place

West Lancashire College is a small community-based college in the heart of Skelmersdale delivering programmes across all funding streams. Situated within commuting distance of Manchester and Liverpool, and close to the M6 corridor, the college is well placed to serve a diverse range of skills needs in the locality.

The Lancashire economy and labour market is characterised by a population of 1.5 million people with 940,000 working age residents, of whom around 700,000 are in the workforce. Lancashire is characterised as having a lower job density than is typical nationally (77 jobs for every 100 working aged people compared to 85 in Great Britain), and a workforce that has a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications (LLSIP, March 2023).

Lancashire-12's index of multiple deprivation (IMD) ranking is 78/151 upper-tier local authorities but 1/26 26 two-tier county council areas, where 1 is the most deprived (2019). Within West Lancashire, Skelmersdale and the surrounding areas have some of the highest indices of deprivation for employment, health, and education. West Lancashire College, along with other anchor institutions in the local area are collaborating to help build an inclusive economy to serve the region's needs. In line with the Lancashire LSIP, we work with other education providers and employers to make sure skills and qualifications are closely aligned to labour market demands so businesses have a skilled and productive workforce to draw upon.

The Lancashire-12 area is ranked 3/151 upper-tier authorities and 2/26 two-tier council areas for number of people income and employment deprived. 11.2% (74,890) people of working age are employment deprived, 13.3% (157,319) people are income deprived and 16.7% (36,322) children aged 0-15 are living in income deprived families.

Lancashire's working age population is decreasing, and significant numbers are leaving the workforce as a result of ill health or caring responsibilities. In addition, businesses in some sectors are experiencing challenges finding workers who are appropriately qualified or have the qualities they are looking for.

West Lancashire College actions to engage with key stakeholders and providers

We have drawn our priority strategic objectives for 2024/25 from the priority sectors and key actionable priorities identified in the Lancashire LSIP (August 2023) which was developed by The North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, working in partnership with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, following a successful Trailblazer in 2021.

Our consultation and engagement has been with valued stakeholders of the College representing one of the following categories, from which we have received feedback and /or endorsement for the extent to which our provision and identified priorities align to the LSIPs and are responsive to employer needs and those of the local economy:

- **Civic** (including local, regional, or national government bodies and designated ERBs)

- **Employers** (including local, regional, national employers, and sector representative bodies)
- **Community:** (including community representative groups, local authority projects)
- **Education / Training Providers:** (including Colleges, Universities, Independent Training providers, Schools, etc.)

In developing our Accountability Statement we have consulted with **Civic** stakeholders, including Lancashire Skills Hub and North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

We have engaged with key **Employers** in our local area and across the county, covering a range of sectors including Merseyside and West Lancashire NHS Trust, Pepsico and NSG Group.

We have strong enduring relationships with Further and Higher **Education** providers in the region and consulted with the following key Education stakeholders in developing our Accountability Statement, including: Winstanley College, Edge Hill University.

West Lancashire College Strategic Aims and Targets

College Strategic Aims and Objectives	Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills
<p>Aim/Objective 1:</p> <p>By September 2025, we will review our curriculum offer, learning ladders and progression routes to ensure articulation with emerging national education priorities (e.g. T Levels, HTQs, etc.) and priority regional growth sectors identified by LSIPs</p>	<p>This strategic aim supports the progression of work-ready students into technical-level jobs in sectors of regional importance with a focus on delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a progression pipeline of 80+ work-ready level 3 students in Manufacturing and Engineering, Digital, Health and Social Care • a progression pipeline of 50+ work-ready students at level 2 qualified in construction and business • 30 new T Level students (Health, Early Years, Digital, Business, Engineering)

<p>Aim/Objective 2:</p> <p>By September 2025 we will extend our CEIAG activity further to highlight vocational options and illustrate progression pathways into careers to support skills needs to attract people into skills shortages areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will host 10 school visits in key curriculum areas: digital, construction, health, engineering • We will arrange a Careers Fair with over 60 employers and invite Year 9 and 10 students from 6 local schools to attend • We will engage with 20 local employers and HEIs to promote job opportunities and progression routes into careers to existing and new learners
<p>Aim/Objective 3:</p> <p>By September 2025 we will provide additional opportunities for adult learners to retrain and upskill, focussing on skills identified in Lancashire LSIP and LMI data for growth into employment and progression in the local area.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer courses that address local skill gaps and industry needs identified through regional workforce development plans and employer engagement leading to 80 new adult enrolments on part time programmes including digital, health, education, construction, and education • Forge strategic partnerships with local businesses, community organisations and public sector agencies to co-design and deliver adult education programs that meet the needs of learners and the broader community using multiple funding streams including AEB, Bootcamps, Learner Loans and Multiply • Set up a jobs club in collaboration with DWP to establish SWAPs in key areas including health, childcare and business
<p>Aim/Objective 4:</p> <p>By September 2025 we will invest in industry specific resources and estates improvements to provide learners with exceptional spaces for teaching and learning and social spaces</p>	<p>In 2024/25 we will invest more to further improve our resources by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using LSIF funding to research the viability of and begin planning for hospitality and catering programmes with the longer-term ambition of 15 trained students by the end of 2025/25 • Planning and resourcing our T level offer to extend to 5 routes including Digital, Health, Engineering, Education and Business, investing significantly in physical and human resources to deliver high standards of education leading to skilled, work-ready students • Further enhance our social spaces on campus, making West Lancashire College a great place to learn and teach, at the heart of its community • This will help to address lack of work readiness from those on full time college courses and increase engagement with employers for students, providing employers with a pipeline of over 100 vocationally competent, well-rounded staff

<p>Aim/Objective 5:</p> <p>By September 2025 we will have established appropriate procedures, monitoring and recording systems to capture cross college stakeholder activity to consolidate and further enhance our partnership work to greater support employers to navigate the skills system and improve future staffing and skills planning.</p>	<p>Review current employer/stakeholder CRMs with a view to consolidating either locally or using NCG wide CRM solution to include all employer and stakeholder activity from across the college. The CRM will be an amalgamation of information from current and new documentation and processes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer Diagnostic for Skills matrix – this will be reviewed to ensure that all courses have employer endorsement on content, suitability and correct sequencing fit for industry • CEIAG Matrix – matrix to be developed that maps out careers interventions by individual course • Stakeholder involvement database – employers who have supported our various events in college including The Careers Fair, Summer Science Festival etc • College Skills Board – Embed NCGs place based governance by developing a College Skills Board with membership aligned to Lancashire LSIP priorities (Health, Digital, Visitor Economy) <p>These actions will support 5% (40) growth in the number of work ready students progressing from college into local jobs, specifically in construction, health, and business, in line with local skills needs</p>
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West Lancashire College links to supporting documentation

[Lancashire LSIP](#)

[Lancashire 2050 - Lancashire 2050](#)

[Strategic Framework - Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub \(lancshireskillshub.co.uk\)](#)

IMD Data: [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub College Curriculum Data Pack:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojYTZlZDViN2ltZTZlZC00NGNiLWJjMzgtMWRiMjYyNDlmZWNmliwidCI6IjlmNjgzZTI2LWQ4YjktNDYwOS05ZWm0LWUxYTM2ZTRiYjRkMilsImMiOiQjh9>

West Lancashire College Local Needs Duty Statement

West Lancashire College meets its local needs duty. This has been achieved through our partnership work with key stakeholders to inform and shape our curriculum. We are committed to addressing local skills gaps identified in the Lancashire LSIP and providing our students with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours to progress into employment. For example, we have introduced T levels in health, childcare and digital and will extend our offer to include engineering and business in 2024. We have also developed new programmes for adults to upskill and retrain in these sectors, utilising multiple funding streams to increase participation and availability.

We will further develop our offer to meet more of the LSIP's actionable priorities by extending our work with local schools to attract people into shortage occupations and sectors, develop employability skills for young people and work with employers to help them navigate the skills system. We will also research the viability of programmes in travel, tourism, and hospitality to support the growing number of roles for the visitor economy in the region.