

West Yorkshire Consortium of College – Introduction to Further Education Colleges

About Further Education Colleges

Further education colleges provide high-quality technical and professional education and training for young people, adults and employers. Nationally, they prepare over three million students with valuable skills for the workplace, helping to develop their career opportunities and strengthen the local, regional and national economy.

Colleges vary in size - our own area ranges from the nearly £100m annual turnover at Leeds City College to less than £10 million at Shipley College. Most delivery takes place in Leeds City Region though some Colleges, particularly Leeds College of Building, do have a national reputation and substantial delivery across the country.

We work with thousands of large employers and SMEs across the region and offer a range of qualifications and training including:

- A Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Vocational qualifications for 16-18 year olds including work placements with employers
- Vocational qualifications for adult learners
- 14-16 part-time provision
- Higher education
- Special Needs
- Entry level and Basic Skills training
- Traineeships (short term placements for potential apprentices)
- Sector Based Work Academies (where participants do short courses in preparation for specific job opportunities)
- Supported Internships (where students with special needs undertake a year-long work placement).

Delivery Agreements have been published with the seven further education colleges in West Yorkshire setting out shared aspirations, particularly with the aim of improving alignment with and responsiveness to economic demand.

Statistics for Delivery in Leeds City Region

2017/18 Apprenticeships Overall Achievement Rates for Leeds City Region ¹			
Institution Type	Apprenticeship Type	Cohort Numbers	Achievement Rate %

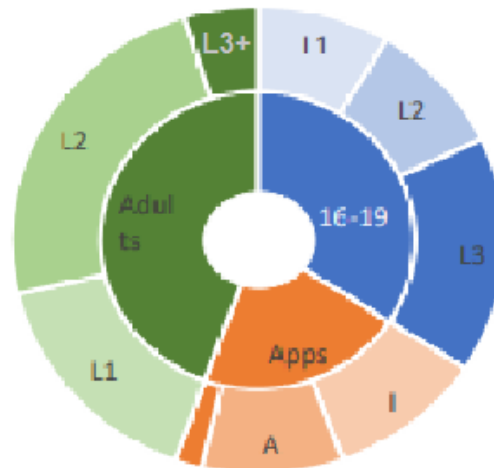
¹ From <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-achievement-rates-tables-2017-to-2018>

General FE and Tertiary College	All	8,460	72.8
Other Public Funded	All	1,050	57.3
Private Sector Public Funded	All	16,190	64.7
Specialist College	All	260	79.8

Education & Training Overall Achievement Rates for Leeds City Region			
Institution Type	Education Type	Cohort Numbers	Achievement Rate %
General FE and Tertiary College	All	114,140	84.6
Other Public Funded	All	11,170	89.9
Private Sector Public Funded	All	26,920	81.6
Sixth Form College	All	13,190	83.3
Specialist Colleges	All	3,600	86.6

The relative numbers of enrolments at different qualification levels across Yorkshire and Humber are shown in the pie chart below²:

YH GFE/Specialist Colleges



Financial Issues for Further Education³

Colleges have most of the information they need to set 2019-20 budgets but face considerable uncertainty about 2020 and beyond. Particular issues include:

² From [RCU Learning and Performance Summary Document](#)

³ Adapted from <https://www.aoc.co.uk/news/the-2019-20-budget-round-colleges-harder-ever-15-april-2019>

- **fixed funding rates:** This is the 7th year in which funding has remained flat. Colleges spend two-thirds of their income on staff and face understandable pressure to increase pay levels to motivate staff and to keep up with jobs in comparable sectors. DfE provided a [teacher pay grant to schools in 2018](#) to support a two-year pay deal but nothing comparable for colleges.
- **apprenticeship spending controls:** The Education Skills Funding Agency has issued 2019-20 allocations to colleges for the training of non-levy apprentices. These allocations are slightly less than 2018-19 activity and will require many colleges to ration places.
- **constraints on the adult education budget:** The total budget has been fixed at £1.5 billion since 2015 despite inflation, a rising population and growing skills shortages.
- **higher pension costs:** All colleges will pay [higher contributions to the teacher pension scheme](#) from September 2019 and many will face higher contributions to the Local Government Scheme from April 2020. DfE has promised to provide funding for one year to cover the extra TPS costs. There will not be any funding for higher LGPS costs and there will not be any information on changes to contributions until autumn 2019.
- **new costs, obligations and unfunded mandates:** Colleges will take on new technology costs in 2019-20 as a result of reductions in DfE funding to JISC Colleges and those colleges with higher education provision will pay subscription fees from April 2019 for the Office for Students. The [ESFA's funding agreement](#) with colleges runs to 50 pages and includes numerous obligations on colleges; the equivalent document from 1999 was ten pages long (ie 20% as long)
- **a tougher intervention regime:** Banks used to be prepared to offer overdrafts to colleges but have been reducing their lending to the sector since 2015. DfEs published a [new College Oversight and Intervention policy](#) in April 2019 which will declare more colleges as having finances that "require improvement" and that will involve remedial action against these institutions and those whose finances are judged inadequate. The impact when it comes to 2019-20 budget setting will be to induce more caution in terms of assumptions and a stronger incentive to avoid deficits while conserving cashflow.

West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC)

The West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges operates on behalf of seven [Joint Venture Colleges](#) in West Yorkshire, representing over 100,000 students per year with a combined annual turnover of nearly £250m.

The Chair of the WYCC also chairs the Leeds City Region Skills Network and in this role is represented on the Future-Ready Skills Commission, being led by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. This Commission will design a blueprint for a skills system that can deliver better outcomes for businesses and individuals at a local level.

The Consortium bring businesses, organisations and training providers together to deliver workforce training and skills support, funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). These programmes contribute to the economic growth of the Leeds City Region, tackle social mobility and connect the education and business sectors. The projects offer funding opportunities for a range of training providers to deliver

training in the region. You can read about our latest [bids and opportunities](#), then register and apply on [In-Tend](#).

WYCC has started work on a three year ESIF funded project called Let's Talk Real Skills.

Let's Talk Real Skills will ensure significant improvements in skills provision through a strong collaborative approach of active engagement with sectors and industry groups linked to FE & HE. A tailored sector model of engagement will each include key elements; employers, industry body, Colleges and Universities. This approach will:

- Transform the skills system to work for employers
- Create space for employers to work within their supply chains, business clusters and with skills providers
- Deliver a sector market for skills development where SME employers make a greater contribution for higher quality training.

The collaborative model will:

- Develop partnerships between colleges, universities, private providers and industry bodies to develop pathways for key occupations
- Design pathways and offers that will engage employers not currently investing in skills

Let's Talk Real Skills will soon define a set of sectors that will be explored in detail. Currently these are earmarked to include:

- Chemical Industries
- Construction
- Creative Industries
- Digital
- Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing
- Health and Social Care
- Transport

Next Steps

1. WYCC would appreciate ESP support to develop an ongoing conversation that can develop a coherent and effective skills offer across the region
2. WYCC will be appointing 7 or 8 sector leads to develop employer/provider partnerships that can lead this work
3. Identify teams and individuals in education providers that are doing innovative/high demand activities

4. Find appropriate companies and individuals to take an active part in the employer/provider partnerships