



EAST COAST COLLEGE

Accountability Statement 2026/27

www.eastcoast.ac.uk/college-literature/





Welcome to our Accountability Statement 2026/27 which sets out our college's place, achievements and objectives for the year.

Our College

East Coast College values...

Aspirational – Being supportive, exploring potential and challenging ourselves daily.

Respectful – Acting with compassion, being inclusive, and welcoming others in our learning community and to our environment.

Professional – Putting team first, acting with integrity, developing our expertise and having a focused work ethic.

Successful – Determining our ambition, achieving excellence and continually raising standards.

These drive our commitment to delivering high-quality learning programmes that transform individuals and build strong communities through education.

East Coast College (ECC) was formed in April 2017 following the merger of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Further Education Colleges. Lowestoft Sixth Form College (L6FC) joined in August 2018.

A Strategic Plan 2025-2030 "Growing Talent, Building Communities" is in place. This was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Senior Team and sets out how our purpose, to transform individuals and build communities through education, will be achieved.

We have reviewed the alignment of our education and training with local needs. Our curriculum is designed from the outset to be responsive and well-aligned with the skills students need to secure good jobs and careers, contributing to regional economic growth.

Senior Leadership



Paul Padda

Principal and CEO



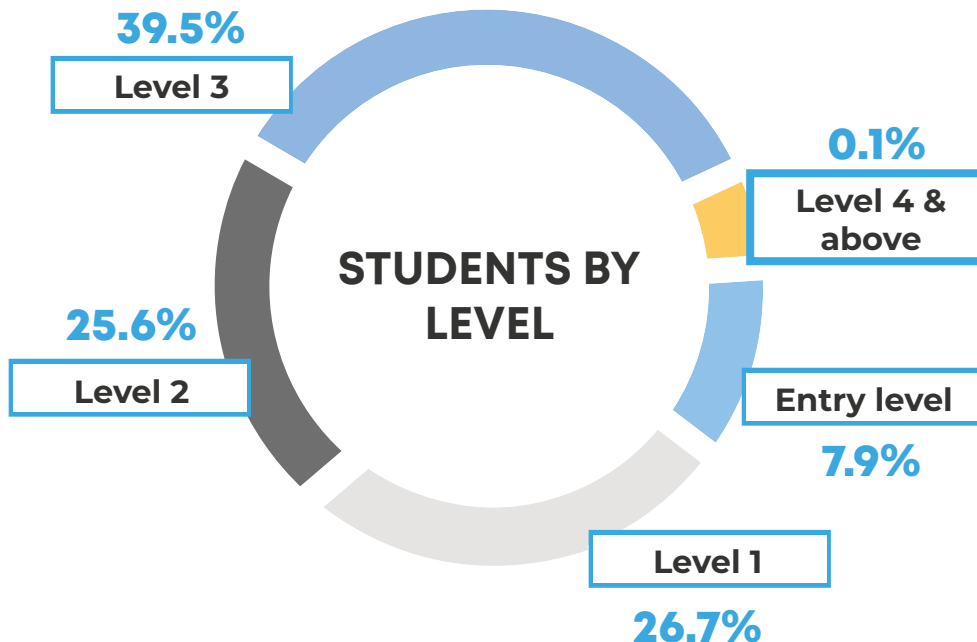
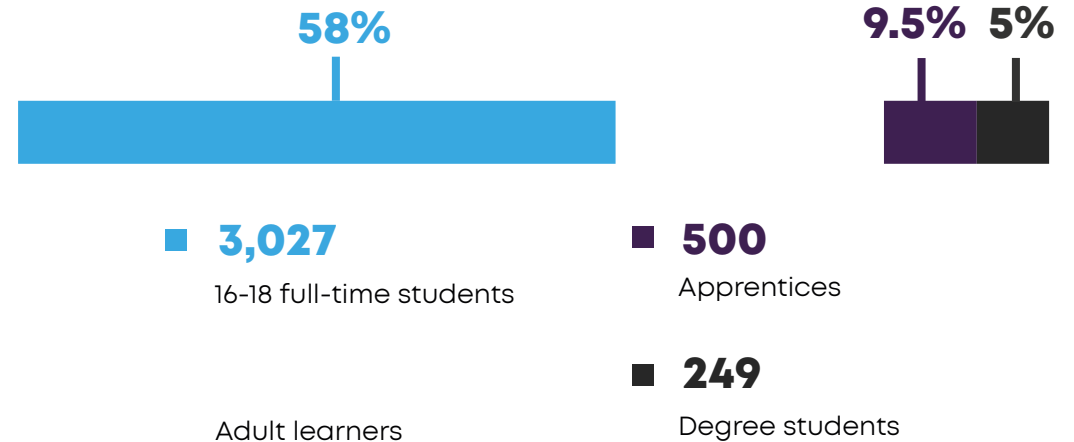
David Blake

Chair



Our Students

Our provision was set across six campuses during 2025/26.
This totalled **5,228 students**.



Our students are supported by outstanding partnerships with specialist organisations and employers. Local and national employers attend events, run information stands, offer work experience and run forums.

Our students have helped define and shape local health services, served as mental health ambassadors, given their time and energy to volunteering and social action and made a real difference in their community.

Student Achievements and Success



The Apollo Project won the Three R's Award at the Great British Care Awards - Eastern Region.



East Coast College secured gold, silver and bronze medals at the World Skills UK Finals!



East Coast College Secured a £50,000 Maritime Educational Foundation Grant to Modernise Cadet Training.



Our University of Suffolk at East Coast College students graduated at the Great Yarmouth Minster in October, celebrating their degree success with their friends and families.



Groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of a new multi-million-pound campus for East Coast College.



In December, at the Scholars Awards, students from East Coast College and Lowestoft Sixth Form College celebrated being amongst the top 24% of learners nationally.

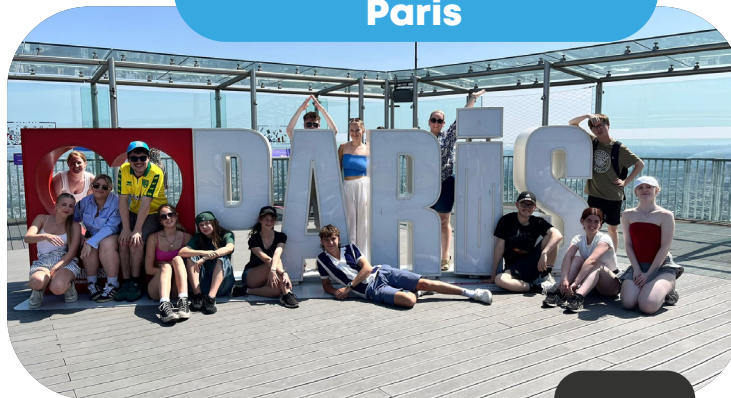
International Visits

Our students have amazing opportunities to travel the globe. This is a selection of destinations they visited to increase their educational knowledge.

Our Travel and Tourism students visited Vietnam



Students from Lowestoft Sixth Form visited New York and Paris



Our Animal Care students visited South Africa



Our Hospitality and Catering students visited Budapest



Our Art students visited Japan



Our Automotive students visited California



Good For Me, Good For FE

The 25/26 academic year has been really exciting for the Good for Me Good for FE campaign at East Coast College.

So far this year, our Students and staff have logged over 1850 volunteering hours. Using the social value calculator this equates as a contribution of £83,700 and we're not done yet! Continuing this trend will see us log another 1000 volunteering hours and reach an approximate year total of £130,000 calculated social value by the end of this academic year which would be a new record for East Coast College.

We had 5 nominee's in the Good for Me, Good for FE Awards back in December and included categories such as Inspirational role model of the year, Student Volunteer of the Year, Staff Volunteer of the Year and Volunteering project of the year. Richard Holmes (Estates Manager) and Esra Sultan Arel (Counselling Student) attended the House of Lords awards ceremony as finalists.

East Coast College are also currently planning the implementation the new "Change Maker" qualification from Good for Me Good for FE and NCFE to sit within the PSD Scheme of Learning. This involves Award, Certificate and Diploma level qualifications, each with Gold, Silver and Bronze pathways focussing on Volunteering hours and applied understanding respectively.





Our Development

Great Yarmouth campus rebuild project

The Department for Education is providing multi-million-pound funding for a major redevelopment project at the college's Great Yarmouth campus through the FE Capital Transformation Fund. This investment will transform the Suffolk Road site into a modern, state-of-the-art campus, with completion expected for the 2027/28 academic year.

A fly-through of this amazing development for our community can be seen here: [East Coast College campus rebuild](#)

The Place

East Coast College was a leading partner in a project to develop a new Library, Learning and University Centre in Great Yarmouth town centre. The building, known as The Place, opened in May 2025.

The ambition is to create a unique environment where local people can take their first steps into learning, engage with the wider community, use the library, receive support from selected partners, or continue their learning journey into further and higher education with a combination of skills programmes.

The project was funded by Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Town Deal and Future High Streets Fund together with East Coast College, University of Suffolk and Norfolk County Council.





Our Development

Civil Centre and Construction Campus

A new Civil Engineering and Construction Centre is being developed at Lound, which is located between East Coast College's Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Campuses. The centre will offer a variety of courses for adult new entrants, commercial upskilling and apprenticeships. The campus will provide training for regional infrastructure projects and work in partnership with tier-one contractors and supply chains to ensure a regional skills base.

T Levels

T Levels launched at East Coast College in September 2022. These programmes were supported by significant capital investment in specialist facilities to ensure students develop industry-standard knowledge, skills and behaviour.

New facilities, such as the Clinical Skills Suite, and advanced technologies, such as the Anatomage Table and Igloo Immersive Environment, mean that our **T Level Health** students achieve strong outcomes, including JPUH-funded nursing scholarships and guaranteed Health Care Support Worker interview opportunities.

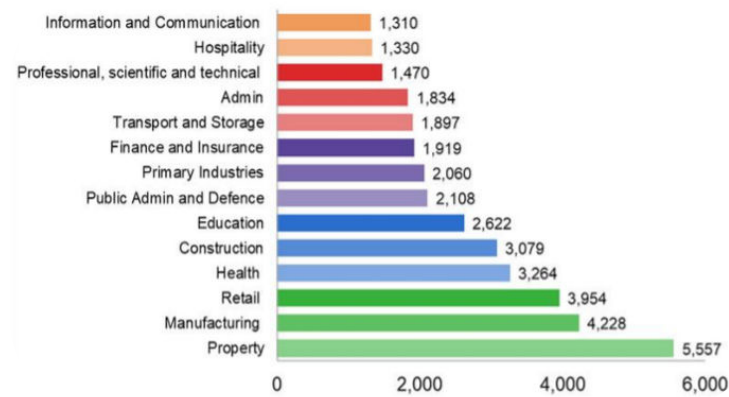
The Hive and The Nest are two fully-equipped simulated nursery environments designed to enable **T Level Education and Childcare** students to connect theory to professional practice within realistic early years context. These provide authentic settings in which students develop safeguarding practice, curriculum planning, professional behaviours and communication skills before entering industry placements.

The college also runs **T Level Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing**, with notable employment and HE outcomes.



Our Area

LSIP Business Base Highlights



East Coast College spans two counties, Norfolk and Suffolk, strategically positioned in an area renowned for its access to some of the world's largest offshore wind farms.

Both counties support populations in the 700k–950k range. Social mobility is rated average overall but shows significant pockets of deprivation, particularly in coastal and rural districts such as Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. GCSE outcomes are improving in Norfolk and holding steady in Suffolk, broadly in line with national averages. Employment levels remain strong, with claimant counts under 3% in both counties and healthy business densities.

Youth Employment & NEET

The East of England NEET rate for 16–24-year-olds is around 13.6%, reflecting a year-on-year increase driven by unemployment and inactivity among young people. Suffolk's 16–17 NEET rate rose to 4.83% in 2023/24 (up from 3.5% five years ago), equating to over 275 additional young people. Contributing factors include mental health challenges, absenteeism, and financial pressures. Norfolk shows similar patterns, though precise figures are less frequently published.

Adult Employment & Skills

Adult skills gaps remain a critical issue. In Norfolk, only 33.1% of working-age adults hold Level 4+ qualifications - below regional and national averages. Around 19.7% of adults in both counties are economically inactive, with long-term sickness a major driver. Despite this, nearly 50,000 inactive adults want to work, highlighting untapped labour potential.

We play a vital role in providing education and training to a rural and remote catchment area, extending from North Walsham in the north to Southwold and Halesworth in the south.

Residents of Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and East Suffolk experience greater challenges than the national average. Limited road infrastructure and public transport options contribute to longer and more difficult journeys for education and employment. There are no motorways in the area and the public transport networks and geography makes travel challenging, despite short distances.

Local economy

Norfolk and Suffolk contributed around £38bn in Gross Value Added (GVA) for the UK economy in 2019 (the latest year for which county level statistics are available). This has steadily been increasing over the years, in line with the national trend.

Statutory Curriculum Review

Purpose of the Review

This paper presents the statutory curriculum review for the 2026/27 academic year. It confirms alignment with the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF), and provides assurance that the curriculum meets statutory, funding and inspection requirements.



Alignment with Norfolk and Suffolk Local Skills Improvement Plan

The Norfolk and Suffolk LSIP sets out employer-led priorities to address regional skills shortages. The 2026/27 curriculum demonstrates strong alignment through continued investment and expansion in the following priority areas:

- Health and Social Care: introduction of Technical Occupational Entry qualifications and independent living pathways
- Engineering and Construction: expansion of maintenance, installation, commissioning, plumbing and brickwork pathways aligned to occupational standards.
- Digital and Creative Technologies: new digital marketing, filmmaking and games production pathways supporting the region's creative and digital economy.
- Employability and Soft Skills: strengthened Pre-Access, Prep for Progress and Employability Skills provision, supporting adult workforce participation and NEET engagement.

These changes directly reflect LSIP priorities to enhance technical skills, improve employability and soft skills, and address barriers to progression for adults and those furthest from the labour market.

Curriculum Intent

The curriculum intent is ambitious and inclusive. It provides clear progression pathways from Entry Level to higher technical and academic routes. Courses have been rationalised to ensure relevance, sequencing and coherence, enabling learners to build substantive knowledge and skills that prepare them effectively for employment or further study.

Curriculum Implementation

Curriculum implementation is supported by appropriately qualified staff, robust assessment strategies, employer-informed content, and delivery models aligned to awarding body and ESFA requirements. The replacement of legacy qualifications with reformed technical and occupational routes ensures high-quality implementation.

Statutory Curriculum Review

Curriculum Impact

The expected impact of the 2026/27 curriculum includes improved learner progression, stronger employment outcomes, increased adult engagement, and better alignment to local labour market needs. Rationalisation reduces learner confusion and enhances achievement and retention.

Statutory Compliance and Assurance

All qualification changes have been reviewed for compliance with Ofqual regulation, ESFA funding rules and SSA Tier 2 mapping. English, maths and ESOL remain embedded across programmes. The curriculum continues to meet statutory participation and quality expectations

Conclusion

The 2026/27 curriculum is fully aligned with the Norfolk and Suffolk LSIP, meets Ofsted EIF expectations, and satisfies statutory requirements.



SEND and Inclusion

Inclusion sits at the very heart of East Coast College's mission as a community college; we are committed to moving beyond targeted SEND support to actively normalising difference across our entire student body.

We look to adopt an environment where diversity is standard, proactively dismantling barriers so that all learners feel understood, respected, and encouraged to thrive.

A key priority remains our close collaboration with Local Authorities, schools, and regional partners to secure the comprehensive transition data required for seamless, day-one support.

Moving into the 2026–27 academic year, our strategic focus centres on deepening a holistic, college-wide culture of inclusion. This includes upskilling all staff through the Norfolk Steps programme to embed these principles into daily practice.

Furthermore, we continue to help shape regional policy through active engagement with the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Authority SEND agendas, championing the opportunities emerging from the SEND Reform consultation to best serve our local communities.



Our Region's Priorities

Agriculture

Enhancing skills for the agri-food sector to support leading research focused on global food and health.

Clean Energy

Equipping people with skills that support the renewable energy sector, for example, wind, nuclear and hydrogen.

Construction

Expanding access to training in the construction sector to meet demand from people and employers.

Business and Enterprise Skills

Build skills in relation to, self-employment, customer service and general business support skills.

Digital Skills

Greater proficiency and application of IT and digital skills across various sectors and occupations.

Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing

Skills encompassing robotics and AI expertise to meet the evolving technological needs in the industry.

ESOL

Community-based learning for individuals with English as a foreign language or those facing rural challenges.

Health

Equipping people with skills that support the Health and Care Sectors for careers in the NHS and related sectors.

Leadership and Management

Skills enabling businesses to respond to future economic opportunities, to be innovative and raise productivity.

Marine and Maritime

Maritime heritage in East Suffolk necessitates skills aligning to its preservation and promotion.

Ports and Logistics

Freeports in the region demand skills in ports and logistics facilitating the import and export of goods.

Sustainability Skills

Sustainability skills and apprenticeship opportunities supporting a sustainable future and the road to net zero.

STEM Skills

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for digital, life sciences and engineering sectors.

Tourism Visitor Economy

Skills to support the rich visitor economy and local cultural heritage, including those already in work.

Current Local Skills Improvement Plan

Enhancing educational outcomes

The plan aims to enhance collaboration with further education providers and employers to provide high-quality skills delivery that is aligned with the region's economic needs. This enables individuals to acquire the skills and knowledge required in an increasingly digitised local job market.

Developing technical skills

The plan seeks to increase the region's technical skills in priority sectors, such as, but not limited to, Net Zero and Agri-Tech.

Skills for Employment

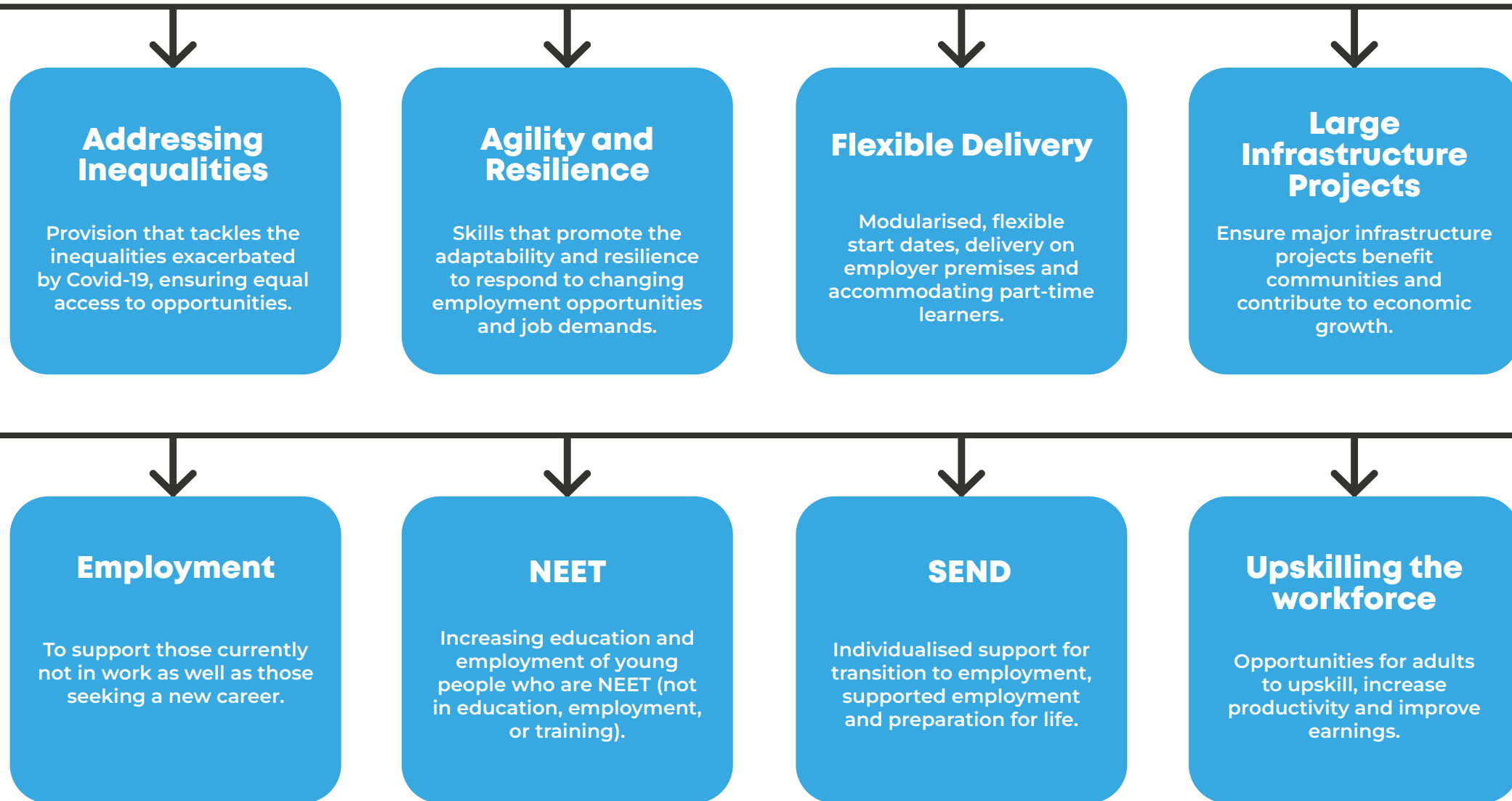
The plan will encourage the development of soft/impact skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and adaptability which are vital for employability and career progression.

Provide a 'Roadmap for Change'

The plan aims to collaborate with local businesses, organisations and stakeholders to provide a roadmap for new ideas, collaboration and utilisation of existing and new funding for workforce development.



Norfolk and Suffolk Aligned Priority Skills Themes



Our College Priorities



Clean Energy

Clean Energy is driven through our Energy Skills centre which works with the sector to deliver core and bespoke training. The College is also driving sustainability projects that will benefit local communities.

Health & Social Care

Through the award winning Apollo regional project the college has been able to forge a range of relationships within the industry, drive student experience and create agile training for the sector and those as a new entrant.



Partnership Creation

We have actively worked with sector bodies and large employers, such as Sizewell C and the NHS, to develop school liaison activities and community projects to connect young people with long-term career opportunities arising from the project.

Our College Priorities



Construction and Civil Engineering

The region is home to nationally important infrastructure projects, including a nuclear power station and Felixstowe free port. Our Lound Civil Engineering and Construction campus focuses on meeting industry needs and training, education and 'upskilling' the workforce.

Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing

Supporting a diverse range of employers, industry stakeholders and large food manufacturers in order to support micro employers. This provides career opportunities for welding, T Level students and ECITB scholarships, helping them progress to sustained local careers.



Visitor Economy and Tourism

Collaborating with employers, co-creating sustainable, long-term jobs and careers and upskilling the existing workforce. Creating more diverse career aspirations e.g. cultural heritage, marketing and public relations, by supporting growth and opportunities in these sectors.

Skills Priorities Summary

	National	Regional	ECC
Advanced Manufacturing	✓	✓	✓
Creative Industries	✓		✓
Defence	✓		
Digital and Technology	✓	✓	✓
Professional and Business Services	✓	✓	✓
Clean Energy	✓	✓	✓
Construction	✓	✓	✓
Agri-Food and Agri-Tech	✓	✓	✓
Haulage and Logistics	✓	✓	✓
Health and Social Care	✓	✓	✓

Our Partnerships and Employers

We prioritise strong partnerships with local, national, and international employers, universities, and stakeholders as well as local to national sector bodies such as ECITB, CITB, National college for Nuclear and the Integrated Care Boards (ICB).

Curriculum planning is driven by evidence-based collaboration with employers. Employer Advisory Groups (EAGs) and the Strategic Employer Partnership Panel (SEPP) validate our curriculum. SEPP includes JPUH, Sizewell C, National College for Nuclear, local employers, and Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Employer groups ensure our curriculum remains current and contribute to its design and delivery through master classes, mock interviews, and mentoring.

Strengthened relationships with feeder schools and tailored activities ensure the college meets regional skills needs and prepares students for future employment.



Progression Opportunities



Information, Advice and Guidance



Green Skills



Competitions



Under Represented Curriculum



Inspirational and Aspirational Curriculum



Employability



Health Education



Work Experience



Staffing

Co-designing Skills. Powering Productivity. Transforming Communities



Our partnership strategy has 5 core pillars:

- Employer-Led Curriculum
- End-to-End Talent Pipeline
- Responsive Upskilling & Reskilling
- Inclusive Growth & Social Value
- Long-Term Strategic Collaboration

The Strategic Anchor Partnership Panel (SAPP) will have oversight of all civic, employer, education and community relationships, engagement, and activity across the college. This will include Further Education, Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Work Based Learning, Commercial courses, and projects.

The SAPP will involve civic leads, key employers from priority sectors; other industry and community stakeholders; college governors and senior leaders.

- Local Economic Impact
- Workforce & Skills Leadership
- Community & Social Impact
- Youth Progression & Talent Pipeline
- Social Value & Inclusion
- Innovation, Enterprise & Economic Growth
- Partnership Leadership & System Coordination

Strategic Employer Advisory Groups (SEAG) will support the college to co-design and create meaningful curriculum to meet employer and sector need.

These will take place for the following areas:

- Energy and Engineering
- Civil and Construction
- Health and Social Care

The SEAGs will involve key employers and relevant sector bodies. They will:

- Routinely and consistently ensure curriculum is developed with employers, responding with greater agility to local skills and training needs based on compelling evidence.
- Ensure all groups from our community are supported to access learning
- Ensure that curriculum plans enable students to gain skills employers value linking to local, regional, and national employment opportunities, further and higher study. This should include ready for work skills; essential digital skills; education for sustainable development and green skills development.

Our Objectives for 2026/27

Objective One

Priority:

Expand High-Value Technical Pathways in Clean Energy and Advanced Manufacturing

Area of Focus

Growth of provision in clean energy, offshore wind, engineering, and advanced manufacturing, key sectors for Norfolk and Suffolk.

How this Contributes to National and Local Priorities

Responds directly to national skills priorities including advanced manufacturing and clean energy industries.

Aligns with LSIP priorities for the East, which highlight shortages in engineering, energy, and technical skills.

Supports the national ambition to increase participation in higher level education by age 25.

Activity

Introduce new Level 3–5 pathways in engineering, offshore wind, and green technologies.

Co-design curriculum with local employers (e.g. energy sector partners) and sector bodies such as EEEGR and ECITB, in line with LSIP expectations for employer collaboration and co-designed curriculum.

Expand commercial offer and higher qualifications in engineering and energy.

Create and deliver new entrant courses for adults to ensure that we support a talent pipeline.

Review apprenticeship offer, to align with skills needs and a delivery model that suits the workforce, including engineering high apprenticeships

Create lifelong learning model at level 3 and above with modular options, which will support upskilling.

Targets

5% growth in enrolments across engineering and clean energy programmes compared with 2025/26.

Launch at least two new employer endorsed programmes by September 2027.

Success Measures

Increased progression into local energy and engineering roles.

Employer feedback evidencing improved job readiness.

Positive year on year growth in Level 4/5 participation.



Objective Two

Priority:

Strengthen Digital Skills Pathways for Young People and Adults

Area of Focus

Digital and technology skills, including cyber, data, and essential digital skills for disadvantaged communities

How this Contributes to National and Local Priorities

Digital and Technologies is a named national priority sector.

LSIP identifies digital skills shortages across all sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Supports the national expectation to reverse the decline in essential English, maths and digital participation .

Activity

Expand digital programmes.

Deliver targeted digital upskilling programmes for adults from deprived communities or those without prior qualifications.

Embed digital literacy across all 16-18 curriculum areas providing a core digital passport, and drive sector specific digital skills within curriculum offer to ensure work readiness.

Targets

10% increase in activities across all levels.

100 adults completing essential digital skills qualifications.

Success Measures

Improved digital competency scores across curriculum areas.

Increased progression into digital apprenticeships and local tech roles.

Higher achievement rates for learners from deprived backgrounds.



Objective Three

Priority: Improve Access, Participation and Progression for Learners from Deprived Backgrounds

Area of Focus	How this Contributes to National and Local Priorities	Activity	Targets	Success Measures
Reducing barriers to participation, improving retention, and strengthening progression routes.	Supports the requirement to address barriers to participation and promote clearer progression pathways. Aligns with LSIP priorities around widening access to technical education.	Introduce targeted wrap around support: travel bursaries, digital access, mentoring, and wellbeing support. Develop pre-technical “bridging” programmes for learners not yet ready for priority sectors. Strengthen partnerships with schools and community organisations. Continue to develop provision that meets the needs of those that maybe NEET, at risk or SEN. Develop subcontracted offer to enhance meeting local need. Continue to seek diverse funding to aid project work within our community.	Reduce withdrawal rates for learners from deprived postcodes by 5%. Increase progression from Level 1 to Level 2 by 10%.	Improved retention and achievement rates for priority cohorts. Increased movement into higher-level study or apprenticeships. Positive learner voice feedback on support and inclusion.



Objective Four

Priority:

Grow Health, Social Care and Life Sciences Provision

Area of Focus	How this Contributes to National and Local Priorities	Activity	Targets	Success Measures
Expansion of health, social care, and life sciences programmes to meet acute regional workforce shortages.	Health and life sciences are named national priority sectors . Norfolk and Suffolk LSIP identifies significant shortages in adult social care, nursing, and allied health roles.	Develop strong level 2 offer to aid work readiness into areas such as social care and ancillary roles. Expand T Levels, and adult retraining programmes in health and care. Co design clinical skills modules with NHS and local care providers. Develop progression routes from entry level to Level 5. Develop adult offer to support new entrants, building on the Apollo legacy through SWAPs and bite size courses.	5% growth in health and care enrolments. 50 new adult learners progressing into care roles.	Increased employment outcomes in local health and care sectors. Employer satisfaction with learner readiness. Higher progression into Level 3+ health qualifications.



Objective Five

Priority:

Strengthen Employer Collaboration and Curriculum Alignment Across the Region

Area of Focus	How this Contributes to National and Local Priorities	Activity	Targets	Success Measures
Deepening collaboration with employers, local authorities, and providers to meet LSIP and Local Needs Duty expectations.	Directly fulfils the requirement to engage with Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs), Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs), and local providers from the outset of planning. Supports the Local Needs Duty expectation to collaborate to reduce duplication and align provision to local needs.	Establish sector-specific employer advisory groups in energy, digital, health, construction and manufacturing, and review employer engagement strategy to create communication channels that drive partnership and collaboration. Develop shared curriculum planning with neighbouring FE providers to reduce duplication. Use LSIP data to inform annual curriculum review. Build the college brand, so the college is recognised as the go to place for talent pipeline, and for employers to gain support with inclusive recruitment and retention activities.	Quarterly employer advisory board meetings across four priority sectors. At least three shared curriculum initiatives with regional FE partners.	Evidence of curriculum changes directly informed by employer input. Reduced duplication of provision across the region. Stronger alignment between curriculum and LSIP priorities. Rate my apprenticeship survey results.

Useful Links

ECITB Skills for Net Zero: <https://www.ecitb.org.uk/skills-for-net-zero/>

GY Borough Council Economic Plan: <https://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/article/2169/Policies-and-strategies>

Green Jobs - UK Government Taskforce:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030>

Norfolk Insight: <https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/> provides data and analysis for neighbourhoods in Norfolk and Waveney.

RCU Midlands Data Exchange (MIDES): <https://www.rcu.co.uk/mides/> Participating colleges upload their learner data providing a sector-owned shared dataset, providing in-year benchmarking information.

Skills for Jobs Paper: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957856/Skills_for_jobs_lifelong_learning_for_opportunity_and_growth_web_version.pdf

Suffolk Growth Technical Skills Legacy: <https://www.suffolkgrowth.co.uk/technical-skills-legacy/> opportunities for construction and engineering roles across Suffolk & Norfolk.

Suffolk Observatory: <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/> contains all Suffolk's statistics and data

Vector (Insight, RCU): <https://insight.rcu.co.uk/> Picture of all post-16 further education, including apprenticeships and higher education, alongside local community demographics, skills requirements, and progression opportunities in an area.

WE OPERATE A POLICY OF OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Further information about the college is freely available from the following sources:

- Information on governance can be found on our website at www.eastcoast.ac.uk/governance
- The college's published annual report, policies and statements can be found at: www.eastcoast.ac.uk/college-literature
- View a full range of courses across all our campuses and apply online today at:
www.eastcoast.ac.uk
www.lowestoftsfc.ac.uk
www.eastcoasttrainingacademy.co.uk



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