



**West
Yorkshire**

Lifelong Learning Network



Sector Groups

Membership Information

What is the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network?

Our Aim: *“To strengthen the performance of West Yorkshire businesses and the wider regional economy through improved vocational and work-based progression of young people and adults into and through higher education”.*

The West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network (WYLLN) is a partnership of higher education institutions, further education colleges and other strategic organisations throughout West Yorkshire.

The WYLLN is the largest such project in the country, with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) of £5.9 million from March 2007 – July 2010. There are 25 partners in the network – 8 higher education institutions, 13 further education colleges, 4 sixth form colleges and a number of strategic partners. All of the partners are committed to providing quality vocational learning opportunities to enable learners to progress into and through higher education.

This project supports the Government’s Education and Skills policies and initiatives. In order for the UK economy to compete on the global stage it is essential that the current and future workforce is equipped with the relevant skills and qualifications. It has been recognised that in the UK, over 70% of the 2020 workforce has already left school and the nation will need at least 40% of the workforce in 2020 to have achieved a higher level qualification.

For many young people and adults on vocational courses or already in employment, the prospect of entering higher education can be a daunting one and even where relevant qualifications are available there is often limited access to information, advice and guidance to help the individual make an informed choice.

The WYLLN aims to improve progression opportunities for all vocational learners into and through higher education. The WYLLN will engage with businesses throughout West Yorkshire to identify the higher level skills needs of employers and develop more relevant and responsive higher level skills provision as a result.

By responding to employer needs and focussing on demand-led curriculum developments, the WYLLN will enable individuals to develop the higher level skills and qualifications needed by businesses, and to realise their full potential and contribute to the economic and social prosperity of West Yorkshire. The success of the project will depend on employers investing in the higher level skills of their workforce and supporting their employees through higher level learning.

Sector Groups

The WYLLN is focussing its activities around 7 sectors which reflect the West Yorkshire higher level skill priorities identified by Yorkshire Forward and the Learning and Skills Council for West Yorkshire:

- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related Industrial Chemistry
- Business Services, including the Finance Sector, Logistics and Retail
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Culture, Media, Sports and the Arts; Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism
- Digital Industries, including Creative Digital, ICT and Print
- Health, Social Care and Early Years
- Management, Leadership, Innovation and Enterprise

Sector groups have been set up for each sector to identify areas of curriculum development, employer engagement and marketing, and staff training and development needs.

Sector groups will be a key mechanism for understanding the labour market needs in relation to the higher level skills agenda and identifying specific programmes or bite-sized learning which would benefit from curriculum development.

Membership of the sector groups will include employers, Sector Skills Councils, academic staff from further and higher education, work-based learning providers, 14-19 advisors, Union Learning Representatives, Information, Advice and Guidance Advisors, Train to Gain brokers and wider stakeholders.

Working to an agreed framework plan to ensure a common approach, and drawing on their specialisms and areas of expertise, members will have access to resources to support the development of learning provision which better meets employer needs, by for example, utilising more flexible models of learning, and more work-based assessment and accreditation.

Benefits of Joining a Sector Group

Members of the sector groups will benefit from:

- An opportunity to shape higher education provision in the targeted sectors in order to contribute to the economic and social prosperity of West Yorkshire.
- Being involved in the process of new course or module design which meets the needs of business/industry.
- Playing a leading role in the curriculum development and exploring different modes of delivery which make higher level learning accessible to work-based and vocational learners.
- Supporting employees throughout West Yorkshire to become fully engaged in higher level skills development.
- Building relationships between employers, course providers and other stakeholders.
- Increasing the understanding of the role and relevance of higher education and the contribution higher level skills can make to the competitive position and bottom line results of business and industry.
- Sharing best practice ideas, knowledge and expertise with colleagues from across the sector.
- Raising the profile of your company or organisation by becoming a sector 'champion' and advocating for the need to invest in higher level skills to key players within the sector.

Sector Groups Terms of Reference

- To improve progression opportunities into and through higher education through vocational and work-based routes.
- To enhance the supply and relevance of higher education provision for employers and individuals through development of the curriculum and improved institutional processes and procedures.
- To stimulate demand from employers and individuals for higher level education and skills.
- To build sustainable partnerships between further and higher education, work-based learning providers and employers.
- To produce an audit of barriers to progression in the sector.
- To identify and brief Sector Champions.
- To provide sector representation on other WYLLN task groups as appropriate.
- To develop and implement an employer engagement strategy for the sector.
- To train and develop staff in support of the above objectives.

Key Contacts



If you would like to join or find out more about any of the sector groups please contact the relevant Sector Officer:

Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related Industrial Chemistry

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For further information on the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network please email wylln@hud.ac.uk or call 01484 471 105