



YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT
2026-27

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Annual accountability statements should focus on what provision you will deliver in the year ahead to support local, regional, and national needs, how your provision will respond to LSIP priorities and the actions and outcomes arising from the exercise of the Local Needs Duty. The Local Needs Duty is the statutory duty set out in Section 52B of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, as amended by the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, which came into force 28 June 2022.

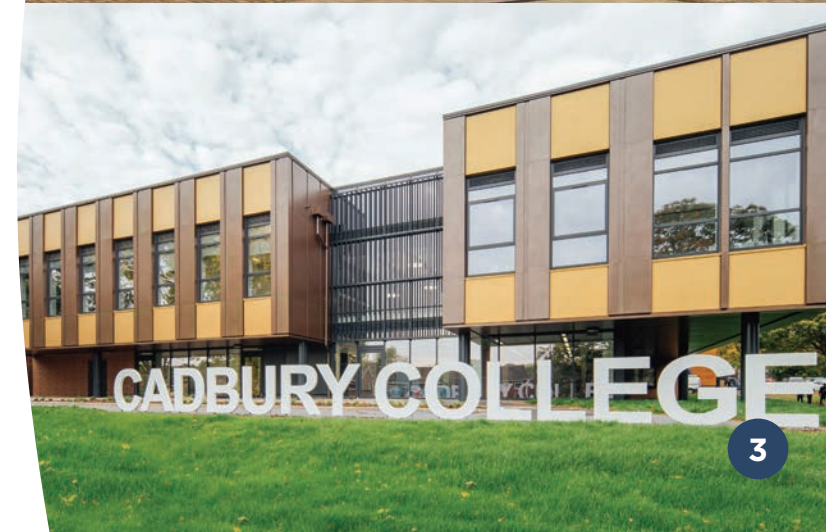
Meeting Skills Needs - Guidance DfE May 2026

1

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Sandwell College (the entity) is the largest General Further Education College for 16-19-year-olds in the West Midlands. We have three Colleges that make up The Sandwell Colleges: Sandwell College and Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form in West Bromwich and Cadbury Sixth Form College in Kings Norton, Birmingham. Through our three Colleges and Learning Campuses, three of these campuses having been constructed and launched in 2025/26, we deliver academic, vocational, and technical education to over 13,000 learners including young people, adults and apprentices.

As an anchor organisation we play an important role in boosting educational outcomes, and in supporting growth and regeneration in Sandwell, Birmingham and the West Midlands, and by contributing to the pipeline of skills that are needed in key sectors we can help ensure more prosperous communities and thriving local economies. We have an important role to play to promote inclusion and social mobility through breaking down barriers to learning in the areas we serve. Our relentless focus on progression is at every level from essential skills to academic and higher-level skills for individuals. We are a major employer in the area with over 1,000 staff and with a turnover in 2025/26 of c£74 million.



Our colleges operate at the centre of the communities we serve, and we pride ourselves on learners being at the heart of everything we do. We are 'One Team', with our talented professional workforce working together to deliver an excellent standard of academic education and inspired skills training across the full range to Level 5. We are a true collaborator with industry, developing partnerships that provide the opportunity for our learners to achieve their ambitions and progress further.

Our curriculum has been designed in conjunction with employers and partners to be engaging, responsive and tailored to their needs, creating opportunities for people entering the world of work as well as those looking to reskill and upskill. At a time when there is both significant challenge and opportunity in our regional and national economy, our future-focused education and skills is more important than ever.

Our strategic plan 'Your Future Our Focus' 2025-28 builds on the success of our 16-19-year-old Study Programmes, and our growing adult and apprenticeship provision. We have made significant investment in new Learning Campuses, our growth in T Levels, our growth and diversification of our offer for adults and our focus on progression. We have formed influential strategic alliances with key partners to tackle current and future skills and employment challenges such as on SEND with Sandwell Council, our Compact with WMCA, our MoU with DWP, as well as partnerships with universities, the voluntary sector, local schools, West Midlands Colleges and Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire, and we are members and patrons of the Chambers of Commerce working on the LSIP. As a result, our offer is transformational and well-placed to respond and deliver on local and regional priorities as well as national policy changes in qualifications and SEND, and will help tackle inequalities, improve opportunities for life and work and drive-up meaningful employment.



SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS AGAINST PREVIOUS PLAN

- Secured Ofsted judgements of 'Strong' for Skills and for Inclusion
- Received the King's Award for Enterprise for innovation in driving social mobility through our 'Go Further' initiative with employers
- Part of Cabinet Office Test, Learn and Grow pilot on SEND transitions
- Launched West Midlands Works with Secretary of State and Mayor and delivered training for job coaches on skills
- Launched a new adult skills campus in Cradley Heath aimed at pathways to work with council leaders, the Mayor and Secretary of State for Business and Trade
- Launched our Health and Social Care Hub at the Learning Campus in Smethwick with Minister for Skills, and NHS partners serving all Level 3 and adult learners for 2026/27
- Completed the Engineering Skills Hub with employers and partners further developing facilities for engineering and advanced manufacturing and growing our employer skills panels and pledges
- Responding to immediate skills needs through a new brick barn and welding centre in year
- Highest ever number of 16-18-year-old learners at just under 8,000 including in-year growth for those who are NEET
- Positive progression of learners to positive destinations has remained strong at 94% for young people and 87% for adults
- Over 90% of learners have benefited from Work Experience, including 319 T Level industrial placements with 123 employers
- Diversified our adult offer delivering increased number of Level 3 and supporting over 60 adults into jobs as a result of our Sector-Based Work Academy Programmes
- Delivery partner to three Technical Excellence Colleges announced in our region: Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, and Digital
- Embedded a 'One Team' Culture, hosted our first all-staff conference, launched our 'Sandwellness Strategy' for staff, and implemented DfE incentives for teacher training
- Maintained Outstanding Financial Health



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OUR CORE MISSION AND PURPOSE

MISSION

Achieving Ambitions. Progressing Further.

Achieving excellent outcomes for all learners ensuring successful futures for everyone.

VISION

The Sandwell Colleges are recognised as leading and transformative colleges in the heart of Sandwell, Greater Birmingham and the West Midlands. Our education and skills training changes lives. It has tangible and lasting impact on individual learners, communities, places and regional prosperity. We are driven by incredible people who work as One Team. We never give up. We are creating brighter and successful futures every day.

OUR VALUES

We listen to every voice, we support and challenge, we collaborate, inspire and celebrate. We break down barriers. We never give up on our learners.

We **CARE**



CONNECT AND COLLABORATE

Together is better. We form strong, effective and thoughtful connections enabling and maximising collective impact.



AMBITIOUS

We aim high, work hard and focus on our goals. We are aspirational, committed to realising the maximum potential of ourselves and others.



RESPECT

We take time to listen and celebrate our rich diversity. We are considerate, inclusive and we take pride in all we do. We take responsibility for our actions.



EMPOWER

We nurture and support, and we are determined and strong. We encourage each other to be inspiring, resilient and bold. We create opportunities for change and growth, enabling ownership, trust, and lasting impact.

The mnemonic CARE was developed by our learners, colleagues and governors.

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OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We are ambitious for all of our learners.

Our Accountability Statement is focused on some key ambitions and activities that will be taken in line with the College strategy and ensure that we continue to create brighter and successful futures every day.

Through our ethos of 'we never give up' we will continue to deliver life-changing outcomes for the learners we support. Through collaboration and partnership, we will expand our reach, to increase opportunities and ensure that our offer is meeting the targets of local authorities, the Combined Authority and the Mayor's Youth Plan.

ALWAYS AMBITIOUS FOR OUR LEARNERS

Work towards 100% progression of learners in all our Colleges to positive choices, higher-level skills and successful careers.

FUTURE FOCUSED CAREERS AND SKILLS

Engage local and West Midlands employers in co-creating industry standard curriculum, teaching and learning that provides a pipeline of skills for now and for the future. Grow our Skills Hubs and Learning Campuses in sector priority areas such as Health and Social Care, Engineering, Construction and Digital.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Create powerful partnerships with civic, community, employer and education partners that deliver tangible impact for our learners and support growth and reach of our provision in Sandwell, Birmingham and the West Midlands.

EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

Empower our teams; invest in our 'Sandwellness' well-being plan; grow professionally; deliver and enjoy our impact and success as One Team.

FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE COLLEGES

Strengthen our business model and strategic resilience (financial, digital, estates) to ensure ongoing success and relevance to communities and skills. Expand market share and income (16-18, adult, apprenticeships), develop the estate, and pursue net zero by 2030.

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CONTEXT AND PLACE



The Sandwell Colleges operate within a highly interconnected West Midlands labour market spanning the WMCA, Sandwell, Birmingham and the wider West Midlands and Warwickshire LSIP area, where travel-to-work patterns routinely cross local authority boundaries. WMCA analysis highlights strong economic linkages between Sandwell, Birmingham and the Black Country, reinforcing the need for curriculum planning to be aligned to regional employer demand and priority growth sectors rather than geography alone.

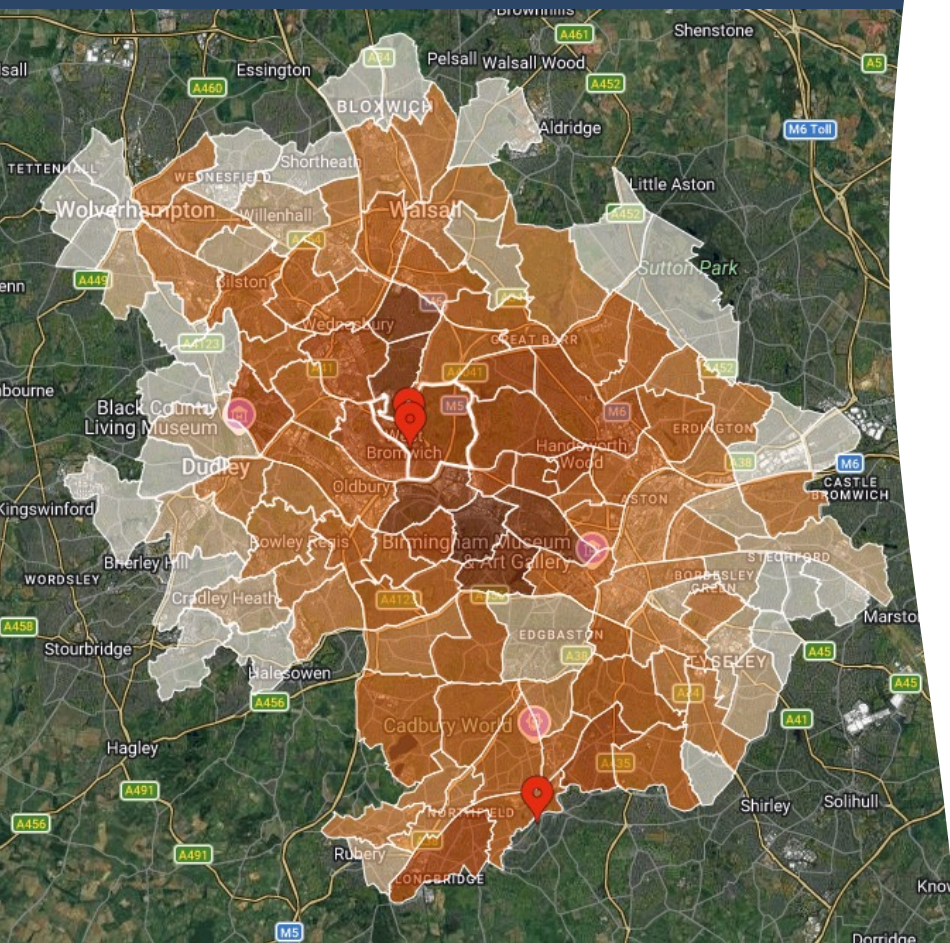
Sandwell is made up of six towns and is a fast-growing borough with a population of 347,551. The area experiences persistently elevated levels of deprivation across all wards, with significant concentrations of socio-economic disadvantage within Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

OUR APPROACH:

- Adult Provision for employability skills including essential skills and language acquisition
- Provision for Home Educated, Young Carers, Care Leavers
- 16-19 ESOL Foundation programmes
- Tutoring for GCSE re-sits through Get Further initiative
- SWAP don't DROP at start of year and roll-on approach
- Re-sit strategy yields high performing results

In Birmingham deprivation is heavily clustered around the city-centre area and is close to the Sandwell border.

- Sandwell ranks as the 5th most deprived local authority (IMD 2025 Average Rank measure) out of 316 in England
- It has persistently high unemployment, with 9,600 people being recognised as unemployed, representing 6% of the community (in comparison to a national average of 3.9%)
- 56% of Sandwell residents live in the most deprived 20% of households in England
- 28.5% of the residents are economically inactive (compared to 20.9% nationally)
- 15,000 residents are actively looking for employment
- 48% are black or ethnic minority heritage (compared to 18.3% for England and Wales)
- Health indicators are poor with life expectancy being 76.1 years for men and 80.7 years for women, which is below the average age in England
- For income deprivation Sandwell is the ninth most deprived in England



**Our full-time 16-18 year olds
Travel-to-Learn Pattern**

CONTEXT AND PLACE Continued

Cadbury College and Tomorrow's People training hub serves the City of Birmingham alongside Sandwell College.

The Kings Norton South Ward (Cadbury Sixth Form College location) ranks within the top 20% of deprived neighbourhoods nationally, with 11,583 residents;

- 17th most deprived ward in Birmingham (69 wards in total) and has persistent high unemployment, with 498 people being recognised as unemployed, representing 7.2% of the community (in comparison to a national average of 3.9%)
- 32.6% of the residents are economically inactive (compared to 20.9% nationally)
- 2,261 residents of Kings Norton South are economically inactive

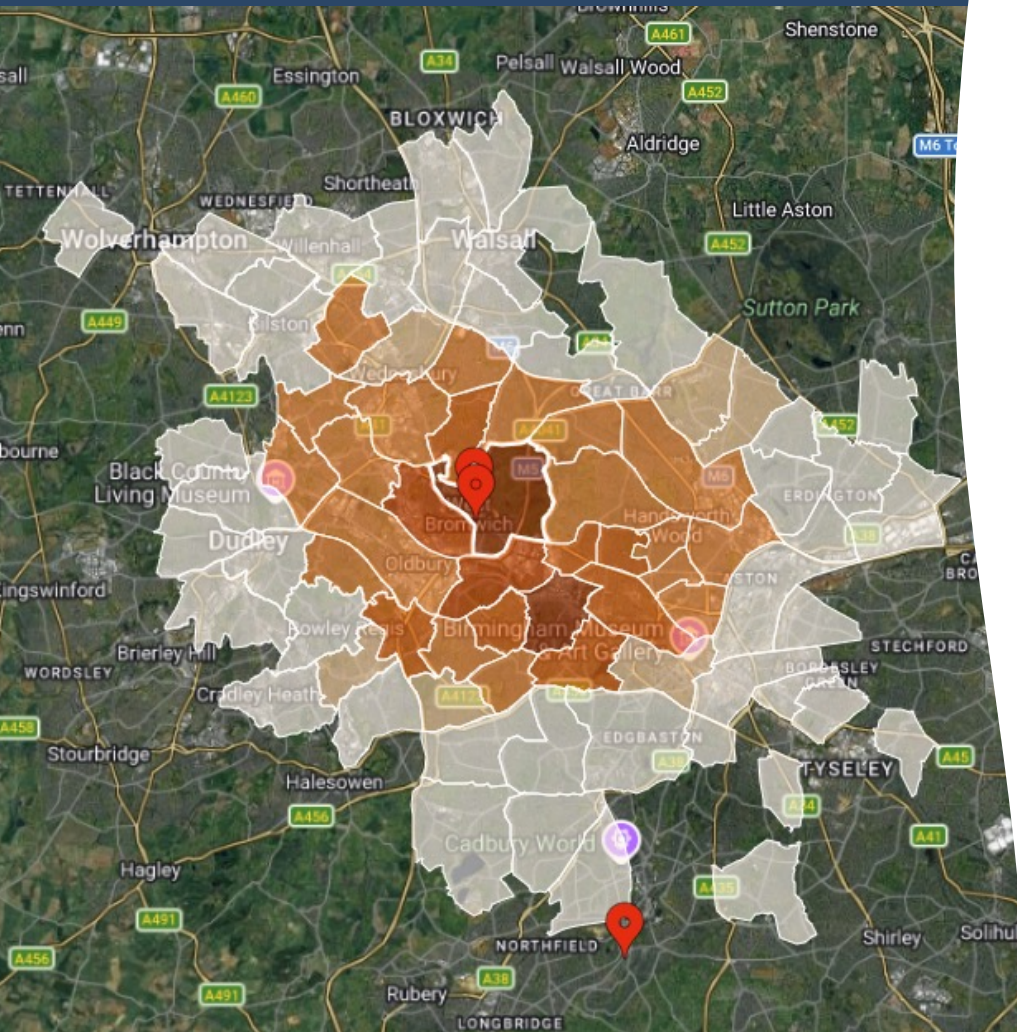
In **Birmingham City**, data from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, shows that;

- 60% of the population live in the top 3 decile groups (ranked against a basket of deprivation indices such as income, employment, education, skills, health, crime and housing)
- 42.8% live in the most deprived decile group
- Education attainment reflects the catchment areas' socio-economic challenges



Our vision is to increase residents' living standards across all parts of the West Midlands. This means bringing more people into good quality jobs, increasing productivity of the region's economy and reducing poverty and deprivation.

WMCA's West Midlands Growth Plan - Growth for Everyone



**Our full-time & part-time Adult (aged 19+)
Travel-to-Learn Pattern**

CONTEXT AND PLACE Continued

Indicators across the areas we serve:

- Only 35.8% of Sandwell's working-age population and 26.1% of Kings Norton hold qualifications at NVQ Level 4 or higher, compared to the national average of 48.5%
- 9.4% of Sandwell's working-age population have no formal qualifications, significantly above the national average of 6.6%. 25.8% of Kings Norton's working age-population hold no formal qualifications
- 36.1% of Sandwell learners and 31.8% of Kings Norton learners leave school without a GCSE pass in English or Maths, compared to 28.4% nationally
- Although the overall number of young people classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Sandwell is low at 2.9%, the number of those young people who are engaged with Care (41.2%) and have special educational needs (9.1%) is high
- 6.8% of 16-18 year-olds in Birmingham City are either NEET or Not Known, compared to 5.8% in West Midlands and 5.5% in England
- There is a significantly higher rate of young people engaged with Care (44.6%) in Sandwell compared to West Midlands where those engaged with care is 22.4%. Young People with special educational needs (8.4%) is slightly better than the regional average (9.7%)
- In 2024-2025 the College supported 351 Looked After Children (LAC), out of 816 LAC in the Sandwell borough





CONTEXT AND PLACE Continued

Indicators across the areas we serve

- Sandwell is the largest College for 16-19-year-olds in the WMCA
- In-work poverty in the West Midlands is at the highest rate nationally, with 22% of employed individuals classified as working but living below the poverty line, with in-work child poverty standing at 38.4%
- Around 1 in 10 adults in the region have no formal qualifications, while just three-fifths are qualified to at least level 3, compared with two-thirds nationally
- The impact of these statistics is felt heavily by employers, with around half of all vacancies in 2023 classed as 'hard to fill' and 35% vacant because of a lack of skills, qualifications, or experience among applicants
- The problem continues to persist with the latest employment data, showing there remain over 70,000 vacancies in the West Midlands, despite the high number of people unemployed



It's about creating a region where everyone can work, can find good, secure, well-paid jobs. Where work brings pride and purpose, not just a payslip.

WMCA's West Midlands Works - Jobs for Everyone

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HOW WE ARE DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT – COLLABORATION



Collaboration and Powerful Partnerships is part of our strategic plan 'Your Future Our Focus'.

The development and implementation of our 2025-2028 Strategic Plan and Accountability Statement has led to strengthened partnerships and driven increased joined-up working across local authorities, schools, colleges and employers.

Our Colleges work with a range of Civic, Community, Employer and Education Partners to shape our curriculum to ensure it is developing the skills needed for now and for future industry and business needs.

Our collaborative work on the WMCA Compact, the Sandwell Story, the Birmingham post-16 strategic partnership and Colleges and Skills West Midlands means we are well placed to continue to deliver a dynamic and progressive curriculum.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Being a Founder member of National Employability Week in Birmingham with Employability UK
- Joint working with AoC, DfE, WMCA and other West Midlands colleges on the Industrial Strategy priorities and the Technical Excellence Colleges
- The Learning Campus development with the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Midland Metropolitan Hospital and the Black Country Integrated Care Board
- Partnerships with universities on progress towards Level 4 implementation and enhanced curriculum and progression opportunities
- Employer Forums in key sector areas and Community Network meetings through Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations
- Engagement in areas of skills needs, such as Rowley Regis, through our new Cradley Heath Skills Campus and joint work with Sandwell Adult and Family Learning
- Member of Growth Company (EDV) and Patron of Chambers of Commerce for Black Country and Greater Birmingham.

COLLABORATION STRATEGIES – CIVIC, COMMUNITY, EMPLOYERS AND EDUCATION PARTNERS

- **Sandwell Local Authority** - Strengthening Skills & Employment Strategy 2024-2030
- **West Midlands Combined Authority** - West Midlands Growth Plan and West Midlands Works
- **West Midlands & Warwickshire** - Local Skills Improvement Plan (May 2023, refreshed 2026) currently under review with new emerging priorities
- **Department for Work & Pensions** - Place based plan (updated quarterly), West Midlands Works, and initiatives for job coaches training and presence on site to fill vacancies
- **Black Country Integrated Healthcare Board** - Termly forum and strategic event for senior NHS stakeholders
- **Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire, West Midlands Colleges and Technical Excellence Colleges** focused on key priorities including Construction, Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering, Digital and Green Skills
- **Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce and Black Country Chamber of Commerce** - member, sponsor and patron
- **Employers** - over 40 key employers shaping and influencing design of the curriculum and over 94% of learners engaged in WEX and other initiatives
- **Higher Education** - working with university partners on curriculum design and progression pathways, Level 4, and on Access
- **Voluntary and Community Sector** - key partners engaged locally to influence the offer for young people and adults, including - Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations, Rowley Regis Family Hub, Barnardo's and Cradley Heath Food Bank
- **Extended Sports Partnerships** - West Bromwich Albion Foundation, Warwickshire Cricket Foundation and Warwickshire County Cricket Club, and Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club on e-sports
- **Armed Forces West Midlands** - to support Public Services and enrichment
- **ETF/AoC** - corporate partner for our leading teachers programme
- **AoC** - membership body and policy development, member of Funding and Accountability Committee Governance network and FE Commissioner 'Just One Thing' engagement
- **Sandwell BID** - member and partner for business engagement and community cohesion
- **West Midlands Police** - Community Cohesion and close working for safeguarding, SafeHaven Project
- **Ambassador for Sandwell Story Place initiative**
- **Post 16 Board Birmingham City Council**
- **Careers and Enterprise Company** - pilot for Gatsby benchmarks
- **KWP CPD collaboration member**
- **Safeguarding and Prevent Board**
- **Headteacher Forums**
- **Colleges West Midlands and Skills West Midlands and Warwickshire**



ENGINEERING

CASE STUDY

The Sandwell Colleges have launched a new Engineering and STEM Virtual Skills Hub and a brand-new skills campus, to fast-track progression into engineering, advanced manufacturing and STEM careers across the West Midlands. Acting as a ladder of opportunity for young people, adults and apprentices, the Hub connects education, employers and careers directly to regional growth sectors and workforce demand.

Based at the Colleges' Engineering, Science and Manufacturing Centre in West Bromwich, the Hub has been developed with employers, schools, universities and industry partners, including Drywall Steels Section Ltd, hydraPower dynamics, and the West Midlands Combined Authority, ensuring curriculum and skills development remain closely aligned to industry need.

COLLABORATION STRATEGIES Continued

NEETS: we have worked with Sandwell Council to inform a new rolling programme of NEET engagement activities, including access to first-rung engagement and more structured pathways such as pre-apprenticeship programmes.

Community Cohesion: we have important and effective relations with bodies engaged in West Bromwich and Kings Norton - such as our SafeHaven project which offers after-college pastoral activities engaging college students and work with local schools and the Police on community safety and cohesion.

Sandwell Colleges Employer Skills Pledge: our pledge promotes employers, who have invested in skills and where we have deep relationships, in shaping curriculum and supporting learners through placements, apprenticeships and guest lectures.

Skills and specialisms: our 'skills-grids' and specialisms ensure we can build deep partnerships with employers such as with hydraPower dynamics for manufacturing and engineering, Moundsley Hall in care, Doocey Group in construction.

Supported Internships: our internships are designed to support young people with learning difficulties or disabilities aged 16-24 years to gain work experience and to progress from education into paid employment. Our Foundation Learning Department has developed links with hydraPower dynamics, ASDA and Sandwell Council to begin the roll-out of more supported internships.

Programme Achievement Managers and Attendance: our PAMs support students' academic progress and overall success; providing tailored support, removing barriers to achievement, and collaborating with teaching staff.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust and Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, Towns Fund and WMCA: our new £18m Learning Campus, based on the largest new Hospital in England, enables us to teach on site at Level 3 and above and support adults in the community to engage in employability and progress to jobs.

Adult Skills Campus: our new campus funded through the Towns Fund engages local adults and young people to gain skills to support progression to employment.

DWP: strategic Sandwell and Black Country partnerships are focused on client groups seeing us working out of Job Centres, supporting CPD for Job Coaches and developing programmes for inactive residents and with employers such as engineering to fill vacancies and skills gaps.

Sandwell Council Adult and Place: Sandwell Story and adult campaign, Place based team, Employment and Skills Partnership and higher-level strategic conversation with WMCA/DWP.

Collaboration with other providers: Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire, Colleges West Midlands, schools and universities.



A coordinated approach between partners is required to address skills gaps and improve employment outcomes for Sandwell residents.

Sandwell Skills and Employment Strategy: Strengthening Skills and Employment for a Thriving Economy

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CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES



At the heart of the UK's most dynamic region, Sandwell and Birmingham drive a multi-billion-pound economy, home to 1.54 million people. With strengths in advanced manufacturing, automotive technologies, digital innovation and emerging sectors such as green energy and health, this is a critical moment for innovation and advancing skills to support growth and investment.

OUR COLLEGES WILL:

- Play a crucial part in the wider skill system providing essential pathways for academic and technical success, personal growth and progression to much needed higher-level skills at Level 3 and 4, and above
- Create opportunities by connecting learners with real-world experiences and industry insight which supports them to achieve their career ambitions
- Work in partnership with employers to shape our curriculum and ensure that our learners have industry-ready knowledge, skills and behaviours including essential 'softer' skills
- Connect with partners to ensure adult learners can access critical basic skills and higher-level vocational qualifications to re-skill and up-skill, aligned with local priorities to achieve good jobs
- Contribute to the national ambition for two-thirds of young people to access higher-level education by age 25 through expanded Level 4+ pathways, the development of V Levels and enhancement of our T Level offer, Higher Apprenticeships, university partnerships and leadership and management qualifications delivered up to Level 7
- Indirectly support other West Midlands Futures goals such as leadership and management for business, housing, health equity, poverty and life chances



Our ambition is underpinned by a fast-developing employment and skills system that includes a regional partnership of FE colleges, adult and community education, training providers, universities, and voluntary and community sector organisations.

WMCA Employment and Skills Strategy 2024-2027

FUTURE SKILLS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

SECTOR	KEY REGIONAL INVESTMENT/GROWTH DRIVERS	EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing	West Midlands Investment Zone (£5.5bn investment potential); Advanced Manufacturing Cluster; Aston Advanced Manufacturing Hub; Coventry & Warwick Gigapark; Future Mobility and Battery Technologies	Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineers; CNC Programmers; Robotics Technicians; Mechatronics Engineers; Maintenance Engineers; EV and Battery Technicians; Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
Digital & Tech	With over 2,000 unfilled roles in the West Midlands. Birmingham Knowledge Quarter; Cyber Corridor; AI and Data Economy Growth; 5G and Digital Infrastructure Investment	Cyber Security Analysts; Software Developers; Data Analysts; Network Engineers; Cloud Technicians; AI and Digital Transformation Roles
Green Economy & Net Zero	Already over 100,000 people in the region contribute to the green economy which includes. Net Zero transition; Retrofit programmes; Energy Efficiency Fund; Heat Pump and Renewable Energy Investment; Low Carbon Construction. Locally the Kelvin Waste-to-Energy plan will power 95,000 homes and support the drive to Net Zero	Retrofit Assessors; Retrofit Coordinators; Renewable Energy Installers; Heat Pump Engineers; Energy Advisers; Sustainability Technicians
Healthcare & Life Sciences	Midland Metropolitan University Hospital; Birmingham Health Innovation Campus; Integrated Care System (ICS) Workforce Expansion; Community Health Transformation	Nursing; Allied Health Professions; Healthcare Support Workers; Social Care Practitioners; Public Health Roles; Clinical Support Occupation
Building for the Future	Housing Growth, with 125,000 new homes needed in Birmingham alone by 2040; Brownfield Regeneration; Metro Expansion; HS2 Legacy; Towns Fund and Levelling Up Investment	Skilled Trades; Quantity Surveyors; Site Supervisors; Civil Engineering Technicians; Building Engineering Engineers; Project Managers

- 55% of jobs in WMCA need skills Level 4+ by 2035.

- Level 3 is critical to skills ladder for areas we serve.

- The skills of Birmingham residents don't match employer demand, making finding skills and getting jobs harder.

- By 2030 Sandwell Council aims to increase 18-24 year olds in work by 1,253.

(Shaping Birmingham's Future Together to 2030, West Midlands Future Green Paper 2025, Sandwell Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-30)

Our Skills Hubs and Learning Campuses reach across all of our Colleges and respond to the skills needs and economic drivers of Sandwell, Birmingham and the West Midlands.

1

**ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING
ENGINEERING
AND STEM**

2

**HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE**

3

**DIGITAL AND
CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES**

4

**CONSTRUCTION
AND GREEN
SKILLS**

We also deliver specialist and academic career-focused programmes including:

A range of technical and vocational qualifications, Apprenticeships, A Levels and T Levels.

Business and Professional, IT, Arts & Media, English, Maths, ESOL, Foundation Learning, Preparation for Life and Work, Adult and Community Learning, Animal Care, Travel and Tourism, Hair and Beauty, Sports, Education and Early Years, Construction Trades, Health and Social Care, Engineering and Digital.

Over 50 qualifications in A Levels and T Levels across a range of subjects including Health, STEM, Arts, Humanities, Languages, Business and Professions, Digital, Construction and Engineering, combined vocational and academic courses through our Young Professional Academies that supports progression to Higher Education.

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UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYER DEMAND AND SKILLS NEEDS

Our curriculum is structured around our strategic objective of being a 'Careers College' and having 'Future Focused Careers and Skills'. We pride ourselves on supporting learners to progress between levels as well as taking the next steps to employment or higher education. We utilise data through Vector, Lightcast, and Skills England alongside engagement with schools, employer feedback and market trends, to ensure our offer is engaging and viable and that curriculum planning influences the business planning process, to ensure that the Colleges are able to provide the quality of skills, expertise and resources to ensure the learner experience is tailored towards progression.

Our Insight work:

STRATEGIC AREA	HOW THE COLLEGES RESPOND	KEY PARTNERS/EVIDENCE BASE
Curriculum Planning	Annual curriculum planning within a rolling three-year cycle, aligning provision to labour market demand, growth sectors and progression outcomes.	LSIP priorities; Skills England sectors; WMCA Growth Plan
Governance & Accountability	Curriculum priorities reviewed through senior leadership and governance structures, informed by regional workforce and economic intelligence.	Department for Education; WMCA; DWP; Sandwell Council; Birmingham City Council; Sandwell College Governing Body
Progression & Careers Strategy	Sector Skills Hubs progression ladder of opportunity, 'Careers College' model providing clear pathways from entry level through to employment, apprenticeships, higher education and higher-level skills.	Skills England and other planning data; school engagement; progression analysis; employer feedback; destination data
Labour Market Intelligence	Real-time labour market and sector intelligence used to shape responsive, demand-led curriculum delivery and investment decisions.	Lightcast; Vector; Skills England; WMCA Data Unit; ONS
Regional Collaboration	Active participation in regional FE, skills and employer networks to align provision with policy, funding and workforce priorities.	Colleges West Midlands; Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire; ETF; AoC
Employer & Community Engagement	Ongoing engagement with employers, learners and communities to ensure provision reflects local need and industry demand. Future Skills Pledge employers.	Chambers of Commerce; Growth Company; professional bodies; civic partners; learner and employer feedback

MEETING SKILLS PRIORITIES

The Sandwell Colleges deliver a broad, employer-responsive academic and skills curriculum aligned to the West Midlands and Warwickshire LSIP, Skills England priority sectors and the West Midlands Growth Plan. 56% of our provision is at Level 3.

Our curriculum is focused on priority growth sectors through our virtual Skills Hubs including health and care, construction, digital, engineering and advanced manufacturing, science and the wider service economy including creative, sport and tourism. Existing engineering, digital and construction pathways also support progression into emerging sectors such as logistics, transport and defence.

Clear progression pathways span Entry Level to Level 5, including A Levels, T Levels, technical and vocational qualifications, apprenticeships and higher technical provision delivered with university partners. Leadership and management programmes from Level 3 to Level 7 further support workforce development, organisational capability and regional productivity, alongside preparation for future reforms including V Levels.

SECTOR	25/26 ENROLMENT	26/27 ENROLMENT TARGET
Care	1,303	1,350
Construction	430	450
Digital	637	700
Engineering	667	670
Science	2,448	2,500



CURRICULUM AND SKILLS OVERVIEW

T Levels at Level 3

The Colleges are a major regional T Level provider, with more than 550 learners across eight pathways. Employer-designed programmes and substantial industry placements support progression into higher-level study, apprenticeships and skilled employment.

Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are a strategic growth priority, aligned to Skills England, the West Midlands Combined Authority and local labour market priorities
- Our four employer-led Skills Hubs create progression into priority sectors and occupations
- Expanding higher-value and higher-level apprenticeships with clear progression from study programmes
- Embedding green, digital and technical skills to meet future workforce needs
- Addressing skills shortages through employer partnerships, particularly in Construction, Engineering and Dental sectors

Adult Skills

Adult provision is designed to re-engage, upskill and progress residents into work, further learning and better jobs.

- Strong essential skills and ESOL pathways build confidence, employability and participation
- In May 2026, the Government announced plans to create an additional 300,000 work experience and training placements over the next three years, with a substantial proportion delivered through expanded SWAP provision. Our Colleges will increase the proportion of SWAPs delivered through our Adult Skills Fund as a bridge between unemployment, skills development and sustained employment, particularly for 19-24 year old NEETs and those furthest from the labour market
- Sector-focused pathways support progression into health, construction, digital and engineering careers
- Access to HE, early years, hair and beauty and professional programmes support progression into higher education and employment

Higher-level provision continues to expand through Level 4/5 pathways, HTQs, Foundation Degrees and leadership and management programmes delivered through the School of Management and Inclusive Leadership. A new HE Strategy will further strengthen local access to higher-level skills, reduce learner outflow and support regional workforce growth.

8

INCLUSIVE MAINSTREAM FUND



INCLUSION, SEND AND LEARNER SUPPORT

The Sandwell Colleges are committed to an inclusive environment where all learners, staff and stakeholders are valued and enabled to succeed. We prioritise equitable access, participation and outcomes through an inclusive curriculum, high-quality teaching and targeted support for c.380 young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This includes specialist SEND pathways (Pathway to Working Life, Pathway to Independence, Supported Internships), alongside high-quality provision for disadvantaged learners and those with English as an additional language-supporting progression into further study, apprenticeships and employment.

The Sandwell Colleges will use the Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) to achieve the ambition of the SEND reforms, embedding an inclusive approach across mainstream provision, meeting individual need, and ensuring transitions support student progress and progression. We will utilise funding to achieve a service that achieves improved outcomes and sustainable impact for current and future cohorts of learners.

We are members of:

- Sandwell Council SEND Board
- Birmingham City Post-16 Board
- Cabinet Office Test, Learn and Grow pilot

HOW WE WILL DEPLOY THE IMF FUNDING 2026/27



UNDERPINNED THROUGH:

- **Workforce Development** - Strengthening staff capability in SEND and inclusive practice from newly qualified to specialist expertise and action research.
- **Partnership Working** - Collaborating with schools, employers, parents, local authorities and specialist agencies.
- **Student voice** - creating a stronger voice for young people through the change implementation to ensure the best possible experience.
- **Capital & Estate Improvements** - Creating accessible and inclusive learning environments.

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LOCAL NEEDS DUTY REVIEW 2025/26

The Colleges' curriculum strategy has been developed in line with the Local Needs Duty that requires governing bodies to regularly review how well their education and training meets local needs. The curriculum has been robustly developed utilising feedback from employers, learners, and stakeholders.

The Local Needs Review confirms that the Colleges' curriculum remains strongly aligned to local, regional and national skills priorities (see Table 2). Evidence highlights sustained demand for engineering, construction and green technologies, health and social care, and digital technologies, alongside growing requirements for higher-level technical skills. The review also identified the importance of inclusion, and opportunities to increase participation amongst disadvantaged groups. Our focus is to strengthen progression into employment and higher-level learning, support vulnerable and NEET young people, and expand flexible learning opportunities.

These findings have directly shaped our Accountability Objectives (see Table 1), driving a focus on employer-led skills development through the four Skills Hubs. This includes expanded apprenticeship and adult provision, stronger progression pathways, higher technical education and accessible community-based learning. Together, these objectives aim to support economic growth, inclusion and workforce development.

- The King's Award for Enterprise for preparing, and getting, young people into skilled employment
- THRIVE Teaching and Learning Framework and the Elevate Assessment Strategy
- Expanded technical pathways at the Engineering & STEM Skills Hub
- Launched Learning Campus for Health & Social Care at the MMU Hospital
- Increased the number of T Levels available to learners
- Focused Apprenticeships on sector skills priorities
- Foundation ESOL for young people who are NEET
- Delivered a further £1 million of Adult Skills Fund activity
- Trained Jobcentre Plus Work Coaches
- Broad range of employers accessing SWAPs for adults
- Strengthened community presence in Cradley Heath Skills Campus and other venues
- Deeper Employer Engagement through our Employer Skills Pledges and panels
- Embedded Smart Skills for English and maths
- SEND focussed supported internships and travel-training implemented
- Invested in critical skills infrastructure aligned to priority sectors
- Continually Developing Talent Framework delivered and industry exposure

The table below sets out some themes from the Local Needs Duty Review, reflecting the key conclusions which informed our Accountability Objectives for 2026/2027:

TABLE 1

LOCAL NEEDS REVIEW SUMMARY	**CONTINUED OR NEW SKILLS NEED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS	ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES LINKAGES	
Expand delivery in priority sectors	Strong demand in engineering, construction, health, digital and green skills; aligned to LSIP and West Midlands Combined Authority priorities.	Always Ambitious Objectives 1 & 3	Grow technical, adult and apprenticeship provision through employer-led Skills Hubs and industry-standard facilities. 16-18 yrs and adult.
Raise inclusion level amongst disadvantaged groups and communities	Lower participation in high-deprivation areas; limited access for those furthest from the labour market.	Future Focused Careers Objective 2	Expand community-based learning and employability pathways, support vulnerable and NEET young people, and implement SEND reforms to improve inclusion and outcomes. 16-18 yrs , 18-24 yrs and adults.
Strengthen progression to employment and Level 2+	Weak progression from entry and min. Level 2 into jobs, apprenticeships and higher-level study.	Always Ambitious Objectives 2 & 3	Improve progression into employment, apprenticeships and further study through employer engagement and targeted support. 18-24 yrs and adults.
Grow Level 4+ participation	Limited local access; learner outflow; employer demand for higher-level skills.	Powerful Partnerships Objectives 1 & 2	Develop Level 4+, Higher Technical and Higher Apprenticeship pathways via employers, Skills Hubs and Technical Excellence Colleges. 18-24 yrs and adults.
Improve access through flexible delivery	Learners need shorter, local and flexible routes due to work, caring and confidence barriers.	Powerful Partnerships Objective 3	Expand flexible, modular and community-based delivery to increase participation, progression and social mobility. NEET engagement 16-24 yrs and Adults.

**** Evidence Sources:** West Midlands Combined Authority Growth Plan and Employment & Skills Strategy; West Midlands & Warwickshire LSIP; Skills England priority sector analysis; Sandwell and Birmingham skills and economic strategies; DfE and ONS labour market data; deprivation and participation datasets; employer engagement and workforce intelligence; and College learner participation, achievement and progression data.

MEETING SKILLS NEEDS - LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

The table below sets out priority sectors nationally, regionally and locally and the alignment to our Colleges' curriculum:

TABLE 2

NATIONAL PRIORITIES	REGIONAL PRIORITIES	LOCAL PRIORITIES
Advanced Manufacturing	Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and Batteries	Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
Creative Industries	Digital, Tech & Creative	Creative Industries
Digital and Technologies		Digital and Technologies
Health	Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare	Health and Social Care
Life Sciences		
Professional and Business Services	Business Professional and Financial	Business and Professional Services
Construction		Construction and Green Skills
Clean Energy Industries	Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	
Defence		
		Emerging LSIP Priorities: Strengthening System Navigability Increasing Modularisation Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability Embedding Digital, Data and AI Addressing Green Skills and Sustainability Literacy

Source: DfE

Sources: West Midlands Growth Plan

Source: Current/Emerging LSIP& Local Authority Plans

KEY

Aligned

Under
Development

No Current
Developments

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ACCOUNTABILITY ANNUAL AIMS FOR 2026/27



'YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS' STRATEGIC PILLAR	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES		PERFORMANCE MILESTONES			
ALWAYS AMBITIOUS FOR OUR LEARNERS Through excellent education, inspired by skills training and a careers curriculum focused on inclusion and progression.	1. Drive learner achievement and progress through delivering outstanding academic and specialist skills education and training, equipping students with knowledge, skills, behaviours and enrichment activity needed to thrive.		Prepare for the introduction of qualification reforms, developing a coherent curriculum with strong progression, developing expertise in teaching, learning and assessment for qualifications.			
			Review and enhance our substantial T Level offer in line with curriculum reforms to ensure learners have the opportunity to achieve and progress.			
			Embed progress measures and value-added at Level 3 and the college’s overall position in the national ranking reflecting the focus on progress from starting point.			
	2. Deliver an unwavering and sustained focus on learner progression, developing transition pathways to positive destinations.		Achieve >93% of progression for 16-18-year-olds to positive destinations on completion.			
			Collaborate and influence English and maths reforms, integrating literacy and numeracy into the curriculum to support industry practice whilst responding to curriculum reforms.			
			Working with the Provider Authority, learners, parents and schools, implement the key priorities identified within the SEND reforms, developing expert capacity and quality as identified within the Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF).			
	3. Continue to expand and deliver a responsive Adult curriculum that meets local and regional skills gaps, providing pathways to employment through upskilling and reskilling.		Expand adult provision aligned to regional skills needs, improving qualification attainment and employment outcomes.			
Deliver >10% uplift in adults progressing into employment (from baseline).						
Expand delivery footprint in targeted localities with measured participation growth.						
This aim relates to the following priorities: <table><tr><td> Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems </td><td> Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy </td><td> National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care </td></tr></table>			Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care	Partners include: • Chambers of Commerce - employer engagement • DWP - employability programmes • Employers - internships and sector work academy programmes • Local Authorities - adult skills • NHS Trust and Midland Metropolitan Hospital - adults, young people and progression • Schools - transition and progression • West Midland Combined Authority - adult skills • Universities - curriculum design and progression
Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care				

‘YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS’ STRATEGIC PILLAR	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE MILESTONES
FUTURE FOCUSED CAREERS AND SKILLS Through industry focused readiness and expertise, engaging employers in shaping our curriculum, immersing our colleagues and learners in industry, and ensuring progression to higher level.	1. Embed a new Apprenticeship strategy that delivers high quality apprenticeships and establishes clear pathways to higher technical skills.	Increase number of apprentices enrolled in priority sector programmes.
	2. Continue to support vulnerable and NEET young people back in to learning and ensure their progression, responding to the recommendations coming out of Milburn Review.	Work with employers to develop an Apprenticeship unit offer.
		With partners, identify opportunities to deliver innovative programmes such as a King’s Trust programme or similar in year in response to local demand.
	3. Plan for the introduction of Level 4 qualifications and modular options in key priority sectors providing a pathway to higher technical skills, and in preparation for LLE in 2027.	Develop the ‘Go Further’ work experience model (The King’s Award for Enterprise) leading to employment opportunity to embed and support with 2 employer partners.
		Develop feasibility and preparation for Level 4 aligned to the 4 Skills Hubs.
This aim relates to the following priorities:		Partners include:
Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care
• Chambers of Commerce - employer engagement • DWP - adults and NEETS • Employability UK - young people and adults • Employers - curriculum design, employability and apprenticeships • Local authorities - employability • Schools - awareness raising of T Levels and pathways to vocational skills and apprenticeships • Universities - Level 4 • Voluntary & Community Sector - community engagement • West Midland Combined Authority - skills and employability		

'YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS' STRATEGIC PILLAR	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES		PERFORMANCE MILESTONES
POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS Through connection, collaboration and community to benefit learners and drive the local/regional economy the growth and impact of our colleges.	1. Establish the Colleges' 4 Skills Hubs, creating employer panels, providing immersive experiences, shaping curriculum and increasing the numbers of learners engaged in each sector area.		Evidence curriculum changes directly informed by employer input.
			Increase number of learners accessing industry placements or employer led activity.
			Co-design the curriculum with the NHS to develop responses to qualification reforms and on enrichment and enhancement to respond to the '3 big shifts' identified within the 10-year sustainability plan.
	2. To become a substantial partner within the Advanced Manufacturing, Construction and Digital Technical Excellence Colleges to meet the needs of local and regional workforces.		Deepen employer and partner engagement to co-design curriculum and meet local workforce needs.
			Enhance facilities and equipment in the three TEC sectors, utilising available funding to develop industry standard facilities to support opportunities for young people, adults and apprentices.
	3. Continue to work with statutory and community organisations in West Bromwich and Kings Norton to support community cohesion, the role of the Colleges in this and support for vulnerable learners.		Continue to work with West Midlands Police, Sandwell BID, MPs and local council to promote positive reputation of our colleges and learners through our Community Cohesion action plan.
In depth work with multiple agencies on support for the College's Inclusion Strategy and the welfare and safeguarding for vulnerable 16-19 yrs. and continue to excel on pastoral and learner experience.			
This aim relates to the following priorities:			Partners include:
Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care	• Black Country Integrated Healthcare Board & Midland Metropolitan University Hospital • Chamber of Commerce - employer engagement • Employers - engaged in the 4 Skills Hubs • Employers - supporting the colleges through Skills Pledges • Industry Hubs such as CiTB and Skills for Care • Partners for the development of Green Skills in our curriculum • Sandwell Council & Birmingham City Council • Skills England • Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire and the West Midlands Colleges • West Midland Combined Authority • West Midlands Police/Sandwell BID – community cohesion

'YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS' STRATEGIC PILLAR	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE MILESTONES
EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE Through attracting and harnessing talent investing in our colleagues' ambitions, and creating an environment for adaptable and innovative practice as part of our professional and skills 'One Team'.	1. Build a high-performing workforce with strong teaching quality, leadership capability and industry experience.	Embed the Thrive T&L strategy and the Elevate assessment strategy across all provision supported with bespoke CPD. Enhance programmes to attract new staff to the sector, with initiatives linked to teacher recruitment and skills roles. Create new Industry Immersion opportunities for teaching staff to return to industry.
	2. Develop our management capability, creating a skilled workforce that is dynamic and responsive to the opportunities available.	Develop, launch and deliver the Leading with Impact senior leadership programme. Develop, launch and deliver the Future Ready induction and management programme.
	This aim relates to the following priorities:	
Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care
Partners include:		• ETF corporate partnership and FE membership bodies Chambers of Commerce - attracting talent • DWP - employability pathways • Employers - industry immersion, CPD and attracting talent • Local Authorities - attracting talent • West Midland Combined Authority - attracting talent • NHS Trust and Midland Metropolitan University Hospital - adults, young people progression • Universities - higher level skills development

'YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS' STRATEGIC PILLAR	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE MILESTONES
FINANCIAL AND RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE COLLEGES Through investment, growth and sustainable practice towards digital transformation and net zero.	1. Strengthen financial sustainability through income growth, efficiency and strategic investment.	Focus on improving the proportion of income generated from programmes for Young People, Adults and Apprentices.
		Plan for an efficient curriculum delivery model utilising DfE and FEC KPIs and taking into account future planning for qualification reforms.
		Implement the recommendations linked to contribution analysis from the FE Commissioner.
	2. Deliver capital investment aligned to skills priorities and learner experience.	Develop and embed a condition improvement programme and curriculum enhancement for Sandwell and Cadbury Colleges expanding curriculum and capacity in workshop-based teaching in priority sectors.
		Launch the Digital Strategy that responds to changing demands of curriculum and the workforce.
This aim relates to the following priorities:		Partners include:
Regional: West Midlands Growth Plan • Advanced Engineering, Light Electric Vehicles and batteries • Digital, Tech & Creative • Health & Medical devices, diagnostics and Digital Healthcare • Next Generation Services (Business Professional and Financial Services) • Clean Tech and Smart Energy Systems	Local: Emerging Local Skills Improvement Plan • Strengthening System Navigability • Increasing Modularisation • Bolstering Work-Readiness & Foundational Skills • Unlocking Leadership & Management Capability • Embedding Digital, Data and AI • Addressing Green Skills & Sustainability Literacy	National: Skills England • Advanced Manufacturing • Creative Industries • Defence • Digital & Technologies • Financial Services • Life Sciences • Professional & Business Services • Clean Energy Industries • Construction • Health & Social Care
		• Community & Voluntary Sector • DWP - development of employability programmes • Employers • Key contractors • Local Authorities • NHS Trust and Midland Metropolitan University Hospital • West Midland Combined Authority • Universities - digital development

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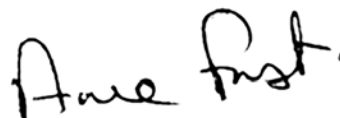
CORPORATION STATEMENT AND SIGNATORIES

This Annual Accountability Statement sets out how Sandwell College (the entity) will deliver provision aligned to LSIPs (current and emerging), WMCA priorities and national priorities.

On behalf of The Sandwell College Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that this Annual Accountability Statement has been approved as the agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives for 2026/27 and that the document explicitly fulfils the statutory Local Needs Duty under Section 52B of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 as amended by the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022. Approved by the Corporation on 2nd July 2026.



CEO/Principal and Accounting Officer



Chair of Board

RELEVANT LINKS

- DfE accountability statement guidance 2026/27
- DfE accountability agreements landing page
- Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 (legal basis for the Local Needs Duty)
- www.sandwell.ac.uk/about/policies-procedures



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- West Midlands and Warwickshire LSIP (2023 current plan & draft plan 2026)
- WMCA West Midlands Local Growth Plan
- WMCA West Midlands Works
- WMCA Employment and Skills Strategy 2024-27
- WMCA Construction & Building Growth Plan
- Sandwell Council Strengthening Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-30
- Birmingham City Council Corporate Plan
- Skills West Midlands and Warwickshire Whitecap report
- The Sandwell Colleges Ofsted inspection report 2025
- The Sandwell Colleges annual report and audited financial statements 2024/25
- The Sandwell Colleges Strategic Plan 2025-28 Your Future Our Focus
- The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy
- Skills England Annual Skills Report 2026
- Post 16 Skills and Education White Paper 2025
- SEND reform: Putting children and young people first 2026
- Young People and Work - Milburn 2026

