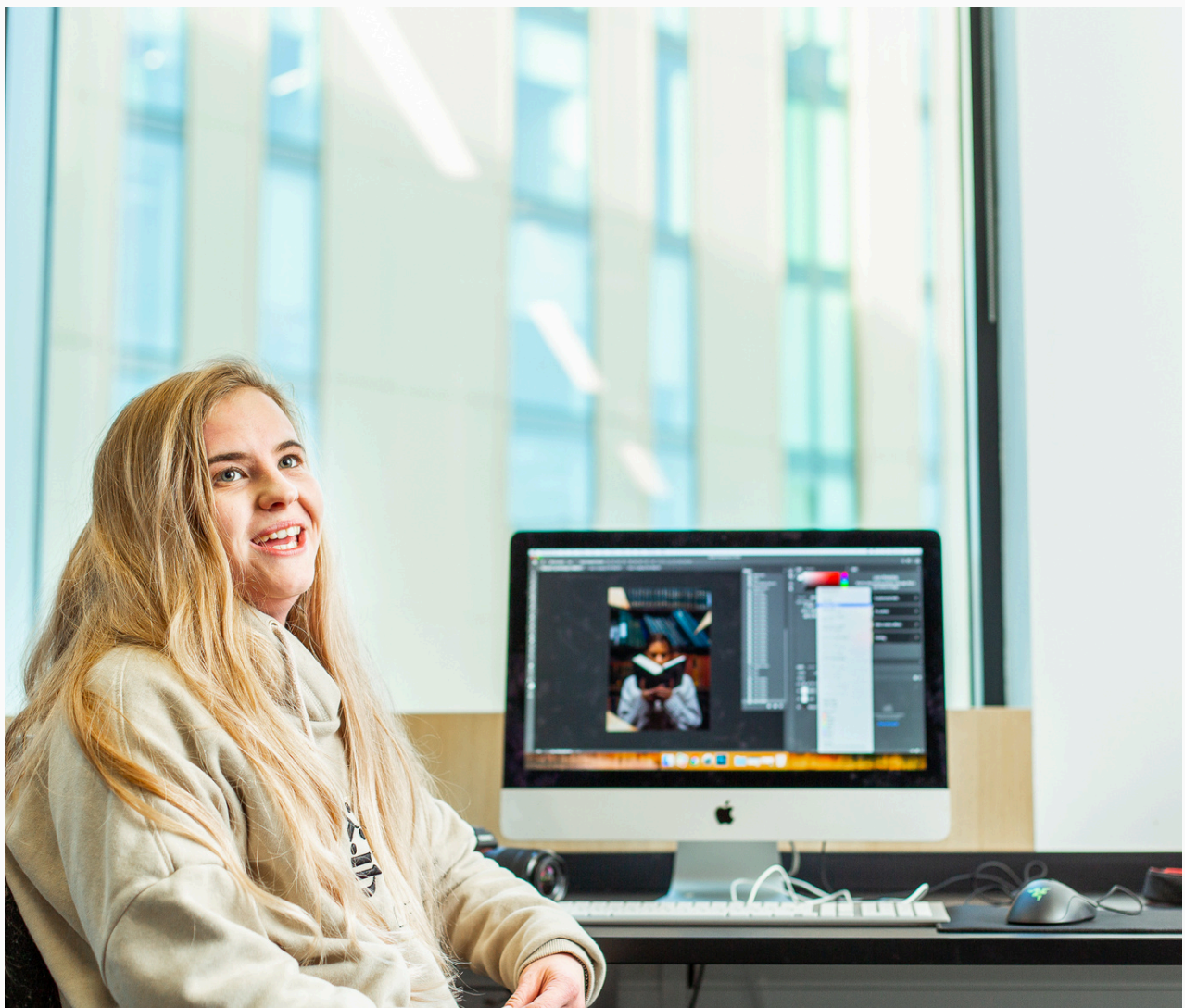


Employer and stakeholder connections



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Our external stakeholders - an overview

As a group, we are one of West and North Yorkshire's anchor institutions and, as such, enjoy strong partnerships with local employers, educators, councils, charities and a host of other organisations. Our work with our partners enables us to collectively achieve more for our community, its economy and our students.

By working closely with regional stakeholders we keep our finger on the pulse of current, and predicted, skills needs and this in turn informs our curriculum so we can offer courses and training that are tailored specifically to meet that demand.

This feeds into local skills improvement plans, supports the growth ambitions of the Northern Powerhouse and, most importantly, enables us to fulfil our key purpose - to transform lives through delivering inspirational education, and the best possible outcomes, for young people and adults, whatever their background.

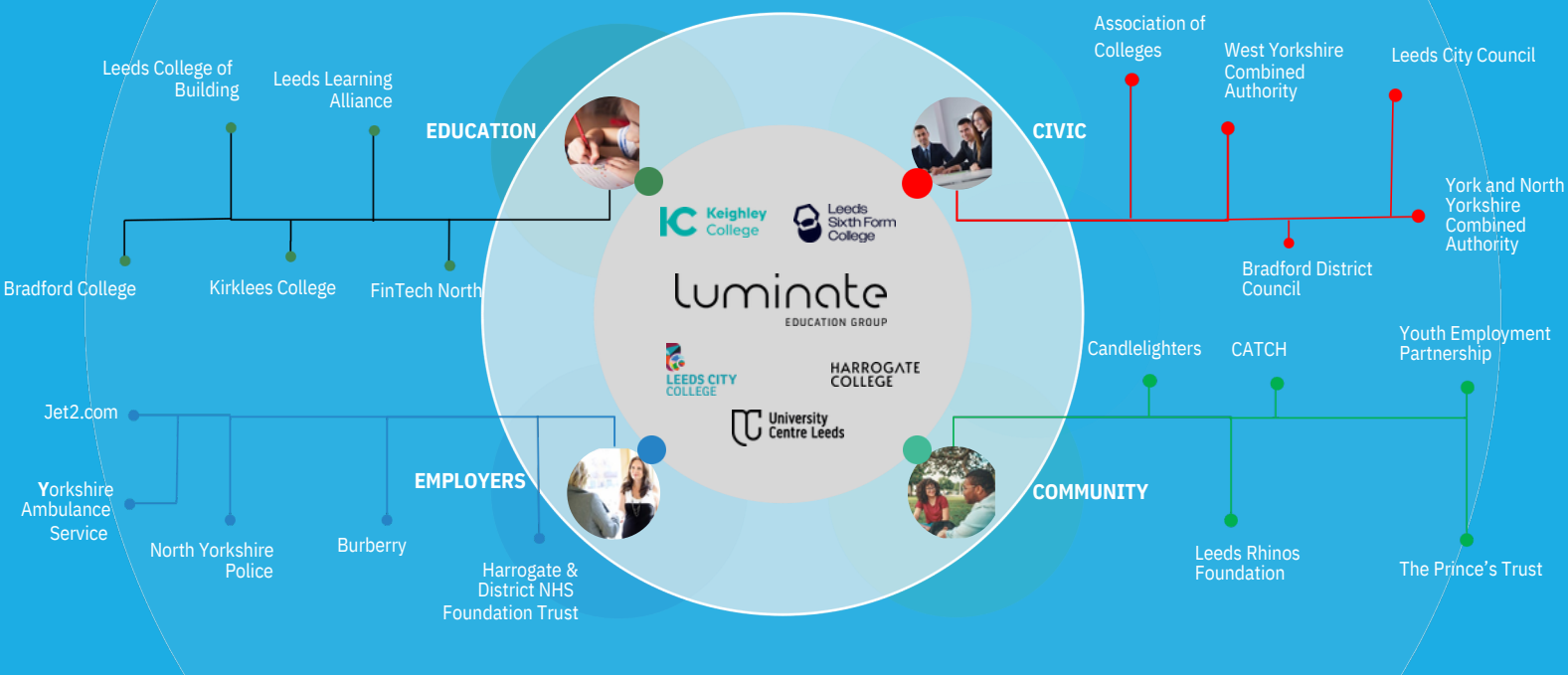
Such collaboration allows us all to amplify our voice to secure opportunities for the region as a whole and its students and apprentices specifically. Our partners fall into four categories:

- Civic
- Community
- Employers
- Education



OUR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

LUMINATE EDUCATION GROUP ENGAGES CONSTANTLY WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING SKILLS THAT THE COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYERS NEED. WE HAVE LISTED SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE GRAPHIC BELOW.



Civic

We work with councils, political bodies and elected representatives at all levels - local, regional and national - to ensure our voice is heard and influences key decision-makers.

This work includes building strong relationships with, and lobbying politicians to support our campaigns on everything from further education funding to curriculum reviews. It also involves practical collaboration with local authorities, for example to secure buildings for the new or upgraded campuses our students, and region, need.



And our work with organisations like the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the newly formed York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is integral to our provision of courses for adults, which help people of all ages upskill, retrain and expand their horizons.



Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin visited Leeds City College's Quarry Hill campus in February, as part of Colleges Week 2024, to share acting tips and announce her support for a campaign to change the rules so that colleges can have their VAT costs reimbursed.

She said: "At a crucial time for learning and development, college students deserve to have all the resources they need to thrive."



Keighley College's key role in tackling regional skills gaps was recognised in October 2023 when the former Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education, Robert Halfon, and Keighley MP Robbie Moore visited the campus for a roundtable discussion.

The event also involved representatives from manufacturing and engineering company Teconnex, whose OCS and Documents Coordinator Alisha Bell (pictured, far right) - a former Keighley College student - contributed to a discussion about how more women could be attracted to an engineering career.

Community

Helping people of all ages realise their potential, despite sometimes significant challenges in their home life or finances, is one of our key goals - and it is one that is more realistically achieved through the power of collaboration.

So we are proud to work with numerous organisations across West and North Yorkshire, including CATCH Leeds (and, through it, Leeds Learning Alliance) that work tirelessly to empower people of all ages and open up educational and other opportunities for them.



Doing so allows us to use our influence and connections to support the work of all kinds of voluntary and community groups while also giving our learners the chance to get involved and gain real-world experience of the third sector.



Leeds City College and Leeds Sixth Form College students volunteer regularly for CATCH Leeds, supporting everything from animal care - on the group's farm - to table tennis.

A few were lucky enough to meet Prince William when he presented CATCH Leeds with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.



Harrogate College began 2024 by welcoming Andy's Man Club, a charity that specialises in supporting men's wellbeing, onto campus.

The group, which offers free peer-to-peer support sessions, was looking for a base in this part of Yorkshire - and the college was delighted to be able to help.

Pastoral/Safeguarding programme manager, Kerry Walker, said: "Many of our learners will turn 18 while they are with us so they, along with so many people in the community, are set to benefit."

Employers

The group is currently working with over 800 businesses and actively seeking, and reacting, to their feedback to ensure we are building a robust future workforce equipped with the skills employers need.

Our employer engagement strategy provides a framework for us to continually monitor, evaluate and refine our working relationships to ensure they result in us shaping our courses to meet the demands of industry - and so boost the employability of our students.



This in turn supports the West and North Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan and its vision of helping people, through collaborative efforts, develop the skills they need to succeed while filling business vacancies.



Harrogate College has forged ties with businesses across North Yorkshire through its Employers' Network, which has around 120 members including Boroughbridge-based ATM Ltd.

HR administrator, Kelly Thomas, said: "The best way to grow our workforce is by identifying someone who has an interest in our industry, investing in their development, and nurturing their progression.

"We aim to do this through apprenticeships and encouraging those leaving college to consider a career at ATM - and that's where the network comes into its own, and sets Harrogate College apart from others we work with."



Our business connections secure fantastic career opportunities for our students and apprentices - like quality engineer Alex Johnson (pictured), who has flourished, through her Keighley College apprenticeship, with specialist high-precision engineering firm Prodomax.

Education

As one of the north of England's biggest education providers we work closely with schools, fellow colleges, higher education providers and regional and national organisations to ensure our combined efforts deliver the best results.

Through the collaborative projects we foster as part of the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges, we also make sure that we are working smartly with our partners to offer the very best training and support possible.





Keighley College recently secured Department for Education funding to improve the numeracy skills of adults.

With this financial support from the Multiply programme, the college is helping people in the district who don't have a Level 2 qualification in maths to help them deal better with everything from their weekly shop to banking.

FINANCIAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SKILLS

A Blueprint for West Yorkshire's College Based Higher and Further Education Sector



Commissioned by:

luminate
EDUCATION GROUP

CO Digital
WYCC Innovation | FinTech

 **Funded by
UK Government**

May 2024

A report commissioned by our group highlighted the steps that could be taken to enable colleges to play a leading role in supporting West Yorkshire's flourishing finance and professional services (FPS) industry.

Building on the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Financial and Professional Services Skills Commission, the research highlighted how colleges are currently an untapped resource for a sector that employs around 80,000 people in the region.

Results days aren't the be-all and end-all of education - but they are, understandably, a huge part of the student experience.



Many of our learners, at Leeds City College, its 14+ Academies and Leeds Sixth Form College had cause to celebrate on GCSE results day 2024 after achieving grades that unlocked pathways into nursing, teaching, music, higher education and more.

Among those was 36 year old former soldier and family man Kenny Knott, who needed his maths GCSE to pursue his dream of becoming a history teacher. Kenny, who opened his results papers during a live radio interview, was full of praise for his teachers at Leeds City College: "They've been amazing."



Key reference documents

- Skills Statement
- Accountability Agreement
- Employer Engagement Strategy
- Response to digital strategies
- Luminate Education Group Strategy



- West Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan
- York & North Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan
- Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Pledge

Stakeholder boards and forums

Leeds Schools Forum

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategic Partnership Board

14-19 Strategic Partnership Group

Northern SEND Forum

14-16 Reference Group

SEND Reference Group

Secondary Heads Forum

Adult Reference Group

HR in HEIs

HEIs not participating in JNCHEs

National Pay Bargaining (HEIs)

Education, Research and Innovation sub group


Work Skills Advisory Board

Keighley Towns Board





Regional Communications Meeting
T Level Communications and Marketing Meeting
Communications Group
Emerging Researchers Network
Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Board
Safeguarding Education Reference Group
Prevent Silver
Prevent Contest
FE Safeguarding Partnership
Future in Mind Programme Board
Leeds Sexual Health / Youth Service
Contextual Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meeting
Gang Prevention Meeting
FE Safeguarding Group
West Yorkshire Careers Hub
Leeds for Learning Careers IAG Network
Go Higher West Yorkshire Finance Committee
Association of Colleges International
CATCH Public Services Pathways



City Health T Level Placements Group
Leeds Mindful Employers Network
Zeno Wellbeing Network
Corporate Parenting Board
Youth Justice Partnership
14-19 Strategic Partnership Group
Skills and Employability Working Group
York and North Yorkshire Principals Group
School Leader's Sustainability Roundtable
Harrogate and Knaresborough Locality Board - SEND / High Needs
LSIP Partnership Board
York and North Yorkshire Public Sector Climate Action
Hospitality Forum
Leaders Breakfast
Equity Network Meeting
Inclusive Project
Pathways and Destinations
Leeds Anchors Executive Group
Good Jobs Better Health
Leeds Race 4 Equality
Yorkshire and Humber Principals and Chairs
Sustainability and Climate Change Reference Group



Leeds Manufacturing Festival

Start-up Sherpas

West Yorkshire ATR Trauma Informed Organisations Workstream

CYP Suicide Prevention sub group

Active Workplaces Leeds

Young Minds Get Active Working Group

LLA Equity workstream

CYP Mental Health Service Network

Foster Carers Network

