

County Durham Skills Developments

Economy & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

3 March 2025



- Position
- Policy
- Performance
- Pressures

County Durham Skills Position

Qualification level	County Durham (Numbers)	County Durham (%)	North East (%)	Great Britain (%)
RQF4 and above	111,200	35.9	39.6	47.3
RQF3 and above	188,600	60.9	62.8	67.8
RQF 2 and above	264,200	85.4	85.0	86.5
RQF 1 and above	273,900	88.5	88.1	89.0
Other Qualifications	9,700	3.1	3.4	4.6
No Qualifications	25,800	8.3	8.5	6.5

Regional Skills Position



Policy Changes and Priorities

National

- Skills England
- Industrial Strategy
- Get Britain Working White Paper
- Devolution White Paper

Policy Changes and Priorities

National

- Identifying and Addressing Skills Challenges
 - Skills Gaps
 - Barriers to opportunity
- Aligning Skills with economic needs
 - Growth and Skills Levy
 - Sector Specific Focus
- Collaboration and systems wide approach
- Improving quality and access
 - Apprenticeships and Technical education
- Focus on essential skills
 - Literacy & Numeracy
 - Digital skills



**Skills England:
Driving growth and
widening
opportunities**

September 2024

Policy Changes and Priorities

National

- Focus on eight high growth sectors
- Addressing Skills Shortages
 - Improving the education system
 - Investing in apprenticeships & technical education
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Data Driven approach
 - Analysing skills gaps
 - Monitoring Skills Outcomes
- International Talent



Policy Changes and Priorities

National

- Youth Guarantee
 - Transforming the Apprenticeship levy into a Growth and Skills Levy
- New Jobs and Careers Service
- Local Skills Improvement
 - A data led approach to skills planning using vacancy data and LSIPs
- Focus on Key Skills
 - Growth in non clinical healthcare
 - STEM skills
 - Green Jobs
 - Impact of automation on low skilled work
- Collaboration and Co-ordination



Get Britain Working white Paper

Policy Changes and Priorities

National

- Devolution of Adult Skills
- Joint ownership of LSIPs
 - Ensuring LSIPs reflect the priorities of local leaders, communities and employers
- Greater influence over skills provision
- Alignment of Skills with Local Economic Strategies
 - Skills as a key tool for driving economic growth
- Potential for greater local accountability



Policy Changes and Priorities

Regional



Employment and Skills Strategy - Emerging strategic objectives



1. Grow the economy through a bigger, more productive, skilled workforce



2. Reduce labour market exclusion among residents with health conditions, disabilities and other barriers to employment



3. Boost employment, skills and prosperity in local places



4. Tackle in work poverty and insecurity and create rewarding work for all



5. Create a simpler, efficient, stable employment and skills system



6. Build a strategic regional partnership focused on achieving shared employment and skills goals

Policy Changes and Priorities

Regional



Employment and Skills Strategy
- emerging priority themes



----- Priority themes connected through interdependent pillars of WORK, HEALTH and SKILLS -----

A blue magnifying glass icon over a document with the word 'JOB' written on it.	A green silhouette of a person's head and shoulders.	A blue icon of three stylized human figures standing together with their arms raised.	A green icon of three stylized human figures standing together with an upward-pointing arrow.	A green icon of three stylized human figures in business attire.	A red icon of a 3D cube structure.	A purple icon of a stack of four blocks with a checkmark on top.
Getting into and getting on at work	Positive futures for young people	Healthier lives through work and skills	Skills for Growth	Employers leading the way	Providing the right environment for work and learning	Supporting the employment & skills sector to deliver

Policy Changes and Priorities

Local

- All Age Careers Framework

- Proposed vision

“Careers information, advice and guidance (CIAG) will be a vital, embedded element of personal development, enhancing wellbeing and providing more equitable career and employability support opportunities for all residents in every community, across all stages of life”

- A shift from ‘silos’ to ‘simplicity’
- A mechanism(s) for smoothing transitions
- An explicit well-publicised County Durham careers and employability offer for everyone
- Improve employer engagement in CIAG activities

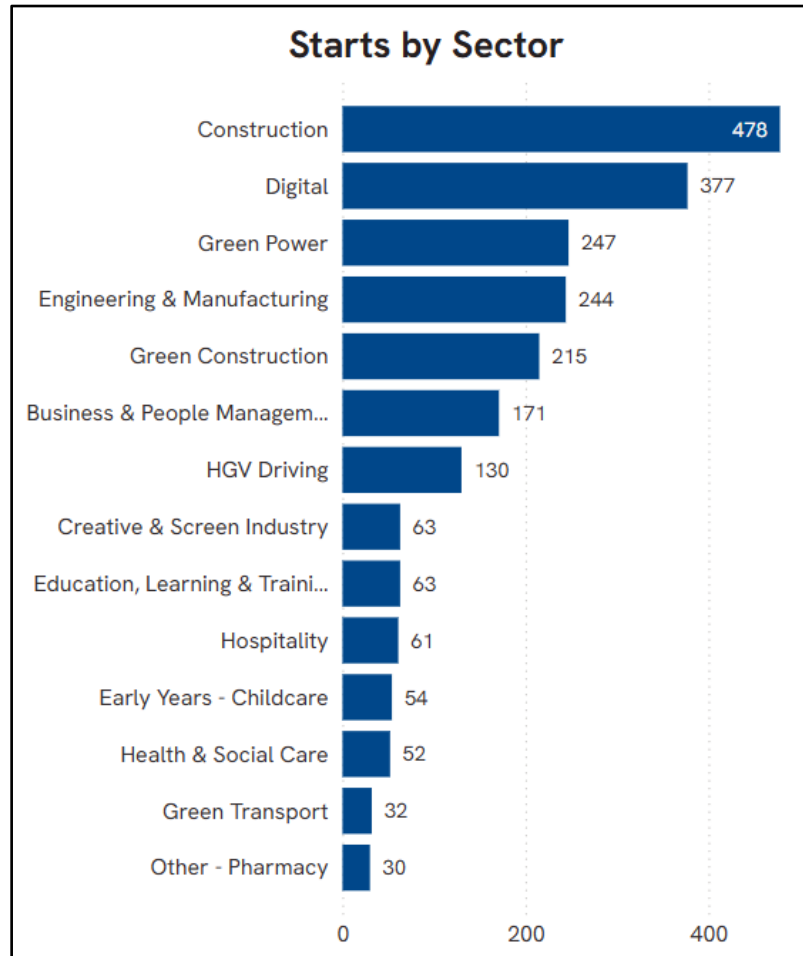
Performance – ASF August 2024- Feb 2025

Enrolments by Local Authority	R06-Feb 2025			
	ASF Adult Skills	Tailored Learning	Total	% of enrolments
County Durham	7,271	1,943	9,214	18%
Gateshead	4,731	2,319	7,050	14%
Newcastle	11,755	1,986	13,741	27%
North Tyneside	3,799	876	4,675	9%
Northumberland	3,616	380	3,996	8%
South Tyneside	3,091	1,843	4,934	10%
Sunderland	5,467	893	6,360	13%
Total	39,730	10,240	49,970	

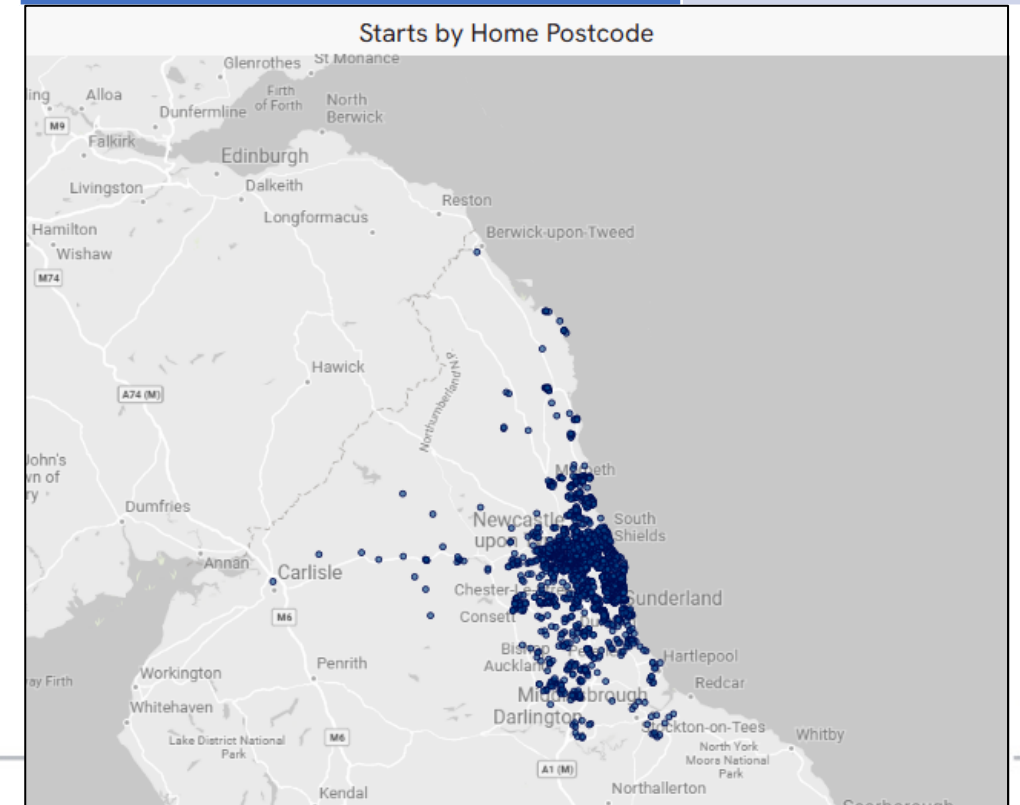
County Durham ASF enrolments by sector

County Durham Enrolments by Subject Sector	No	%
01 - Health, Public Services and Care	1,787	24%
02 - Science and Mathematics	93	1%
03 - Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care	101	1%
04 - Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	1,016	13%
05 - Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	454	6%
06 - Information and Communication Technology	140	2%
07 - Retail and Commercial Enterprise	439	6%
08 - Leisure, Travel and Tourism	14	0%
09 - Arts, Media and Publishing	81	1%
10 - History, Philosophy and Theology		0%
11 - Social Sciences		0%
12 - Languages, Literature and Culture	87	1%
13 - Education & Training	229	3%
14 - Preparation for Life and Work	2,894	38%
15 - Business, Administration and Law	226	3%
Total	7,561	

Skills Bootcamps delivery



Local Authority	Total Starts
Sunderland	440
Newcastle upon Tyne	390
County Durham	353
Northumberland	292
North Tyneside	265
Gateshead	182
South Tyneside	157



Pressures

- 1 year funding settlements for 25/26 provides no long term security, e.g. UKSPF
- Bootcamps – awaiting update for future delivery - wave 5 extensions or wave 6 competition. Current programme concludes 31/3/25
- Adult Skills Fund – 2-3 % reduction in funding for 25/26 just announced which does not align with industrial / growth strategies
- Employers NI pressures - No notification yet from DfE on 24/25 in year growth funding and NI funding to cover increased rates ,
- No change in VAT status of FE which puts us at a disadvantage compared to schools and academies
- Growth sector demands for skills in NE (Offshore wind, Onshore wind, advanced manufacturing, constructions , engineering etc) are significant and will cause competition amongst employers / outstripping supply

County Durham Skills Developments Questions?

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