

Accountability Statement 2026/27

www.chesterfield.ac.uk/knowledge-base/accountability/





Contents

Mission and Vision	3
Our Core Values	4
5 Ps	5
Purpose	6
Context and Place	7 - 9
Addressing the Local, Regional and National Challenges	10
Connectivity	11
Approach to Developing the Annual Accountability Statement	12
Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities	13-18
Inclusive Mainstream Fund	19
Local Needs Duty	20
Corporation Statement	21
Reference to Relevant Support Documentation & Hyperlink	22

Mission and Vision

The Chesterfield College Group's (CCG) strategic curriculum intent is set out in our new Strategic Plan 2024-2027 which is defined at a corporate level through the mission and vision.

Our Mission:

Inspiring futures
Changing lives



Our strategic aims and the delivery of our mission and vision are framed around the concept of our 5 strategic priorities (the 5Ps) being People, Performance, Planet, Prosperity, Place. The CCG ethos centres around a people first approach; we believe that the development, happiness and wellbeing of our people is the cornerstone of success. Whilst operating within an environment which is challenging and unpredictable, our focus on the wellbeing, development and support of our people is an area of continuous development for the CCG.

Working effectively in partnership with our governing body, this people centred focus remains at the heart of every decision we make, thus assessing the impact on our staff, students and the communities we serve. This approach is built on developing trust, accountability and with the belief that teams make better decisions than individuals. We share ownership for the development of skills for our businesses and local people.

Our vision sets out how we wish to be recognised as an organisation, as a highly responsive education business which supports people development for our local economy.

Our Vision:

Empowering people
through education,
where individuals grow
and communities thrive.

Our Core Values

We prioritise the wellness of our students and colleagues; we provide a safe and supportive environment in which to work and learn.

Our strategic intent and the framework of the 5Ps also translate into the core values for students and staff.

To treat everyone with respect

Treating everyone with dignity, respect and kindness.

To be an inclusive college

Creating an environment where everyone is welcomed, valued and celebrated for who they are.

To operate with integrity

Being honest and trustworthy in everything we do.

To be accountable

Taking ownership together, for the continual success of our college.

PEOPLE

Caring, responsive and customer focused.

We create a culture of innovation, developing our people to have the skills and confidence to learn and work in an ever changing world.

PERFORMANCE

Developing skills, maximising potential, achieving success.

Our students progress to high quality destinations to fulfil their life ambitions.

Our Five Strategic Priorities – The 5 Ps

PROSPERITY

Financially sound, equipped to flourish.

We work together to secure re-investment in our college community.

PLANET

Respecting our planet, protecting our environment.

Our curriculum equips students and the wider community with the skills and behaviours to protect our planet.

PLACE

Responsive, ambitious provider of choice.

Our college and curriculum evolve to be at the forefront of future skills to meet business needs.

Purpose and Strategic Aims

The CCG exists to inspire the future of our local people and the economy through high quality education and training and clear progression routes into good jobs, whilst building resilience and ambition for a positive future for every student and member of staff.

Building ladders of progression for our students and apprentices sits at the heart of our strategy. Being recognised for our ability to provide a platform for progression is critical to develop our student numbers whilst influencing the ambitions of our students and apprentices, supporting them to aim high and achieve well.

Our strategy focuses primarily on our people: students, apprentices and staff, together with the external stakeholders who utilise our services and support us in the development of our business. Our strategic priorities – ‘The 5Ps and Strategic Achievements’ are at the heart of everything we do, every decision we make and every opportunity we embrace as we develop our organisation as a leading provider of education and skills.

Our 3-year strategic plan continues with the development of transformational leadership, building on the strengths and expertise of the Senior Leadership Team. Our objectives for the future will involve even greater whole group collaboration, both internally and externally, to place CCG at the forefront of the delivery of the Skills Act.

During the Ofsted inspection in November 2022, Chesterfield College received Good across all aspects of the framework with the highest possible grade for the contribution to meeting skills needs. This achievement recognises the significant engagement with external stakeholders throughout CCG. In June 2023, our provision in Derby, which predominantly delivers engineering and service sector apprenticeships, was judged as good by Ofsted. More recently, the college achieved an outstanding Ofsted grade for Teacher Training in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University.

Employers are a key influence in shaping the curriculum and the strong and trusted relationships place CCG in a strong position to meet national and regional skills priorities which in turn will support the delivery of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP).

Our strategic plan demonstrates CCG’s ambitions to continue to build on the already strong partnerships to further develop work experience/industry placements for 16-19 year olds, improve outcomes for students including progression into apprenticeships, further/higher education, develop the

adult offer to meet economic need and continue to develop our student numbers and apprenticeship offer with a focus on employer led higher level skills.

Much work has been undertaken to carefully steer CCG through difficult financial times whilst investing in the infrastructure and resources for staff and students including the completion of our new Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences Academy.

Every member of staff is a role model for our student community and there is a relentless drive to support individual development, high levels of success and good citizenship. In addition, we have developed a strategy for stakeholder engagement under the banner of being “Loudly Brilliant” where we promote CCG’s successes and encourage our students to showcase their skills, enter competitions, and fulfil their life/career dreams.

In turn we will develop their life skills and digital skills to prepare them for the world of work.



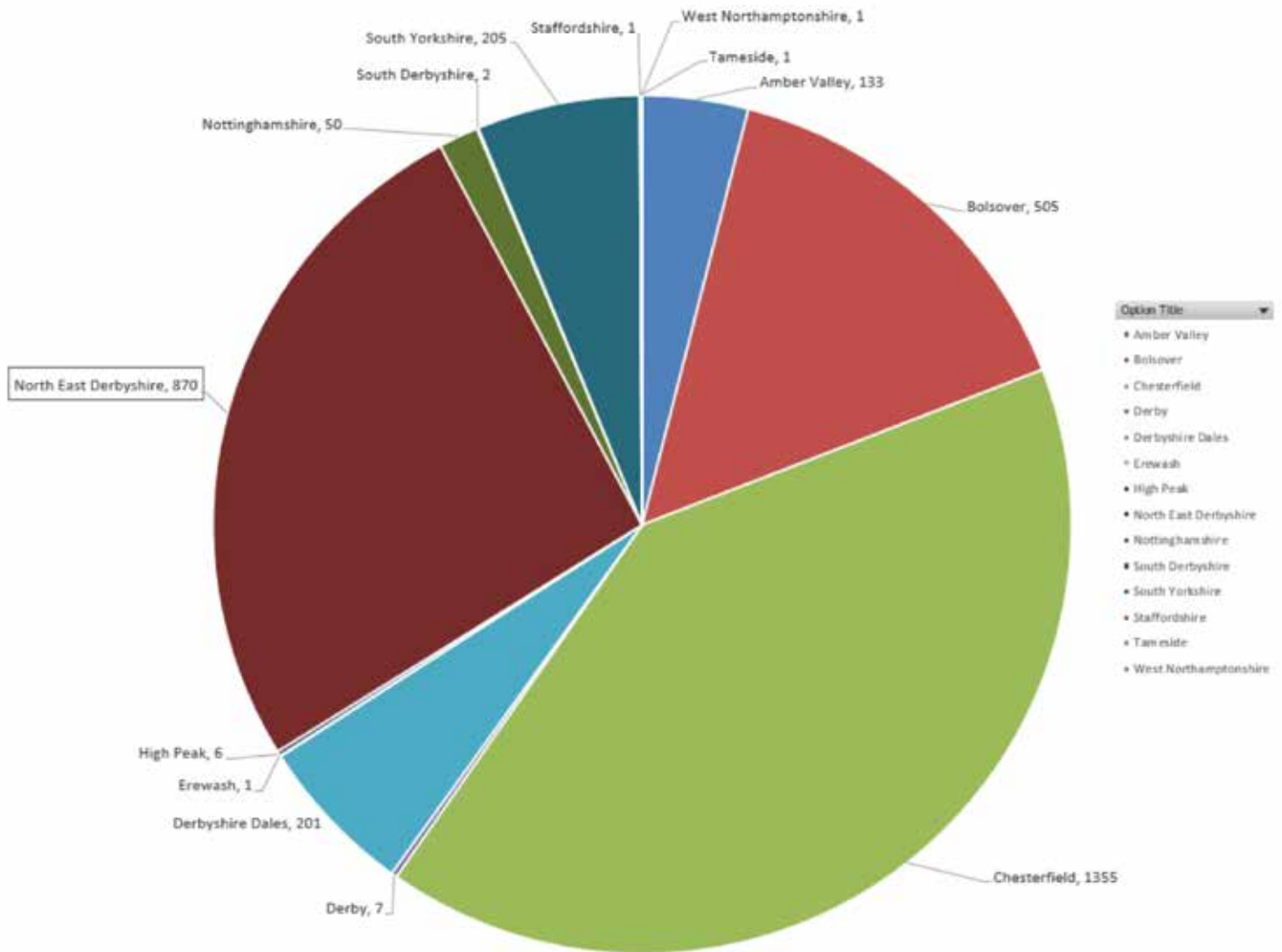
Inspiring futures
Changing lives



Context and Place

16-19s

The pie chart below maps the home location for 16-19 year olds studying at CCG in 2025/26.

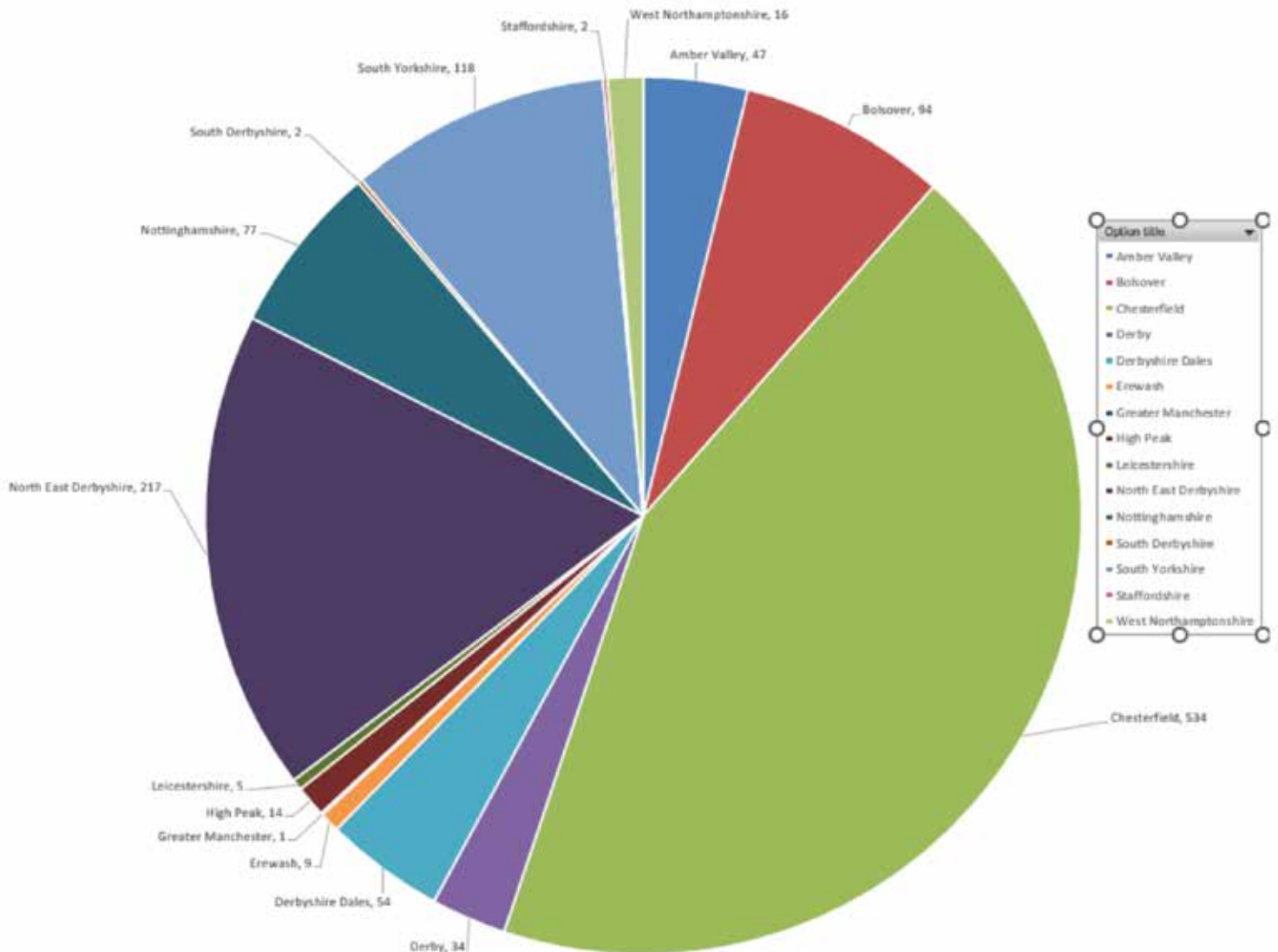




Context and Place

19+

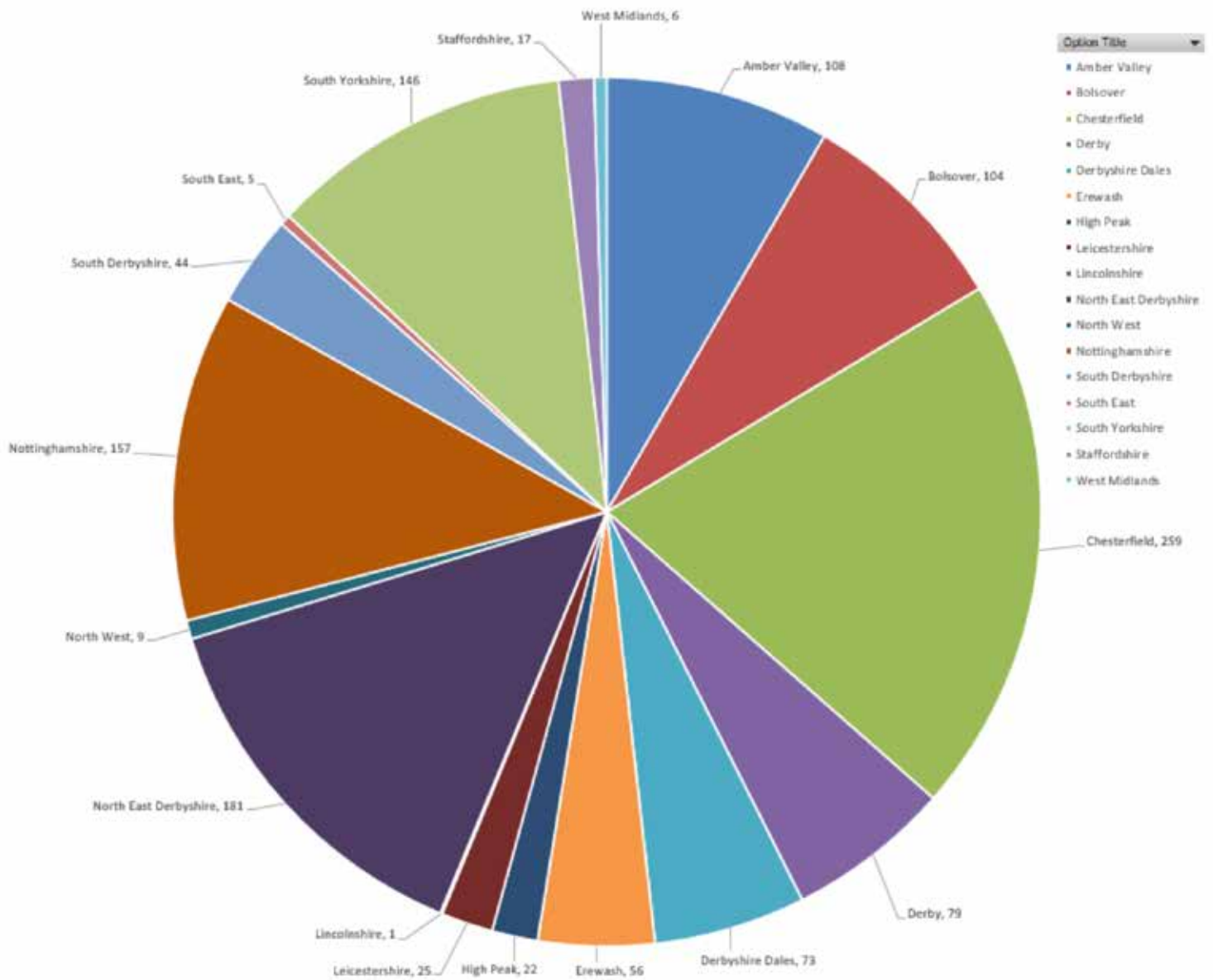
The pie chart below maps the home location for our adult students in 2025/26.





Apprentices

The larger geographical spread represents apprentices who are taught by our work based teams who, through the use of technology, deliver provision effectively online.



The three pie charts clearly demonstrate CCG's strategy to predominantly operate within a 30 mile radius of Chesterfield and prioritise local need.

Addressing the Local, Regional and National Challenges

In 2022, 3,350 enterprises operated in Chesterfield. Over ten years the business base has grown by 21%, however this is below the rate of growth seen at regional (30%) and national (29%) levels. The largest growth is in construction, business administration and professional services sectors.

Chesterfield Growth Strategy 2023-2027

At 2.9% the proportion of 16 to 17 year olds who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) is double the Derbyshire average (1.5%).

Chesterfield Skills Plan 2023-2027

There are currently 55,000 unfilled long-term vacancies in the UK manufacturing sector, costing the economy £6bn in lost output each year

The UK is in the midst of an economic and productivity crisis... industry is plagued by sluggish growth, stagnant wages, and a widening productivity gap

Demand for skilled workers has increased at the very same time as the pipeline for workers is diminishing.

MAKE UK (The Manufacturers Organisation) Industrial Strategy Skills Commission

Chesterfield continues to have a high rate of youth (18-24) unemployment at 6.9% compared to 4.9% nationally.

Chesterfield Skills Plan 2023-2027

Construction accounts for around 2,400 jobs in Chesterfield (5% of local employment) and is expected to continue to grow due to the pipeline of new housing and infrastructure locally.

Chesterfield Skills Plan 2023-2027

Chesterfield has fewer people qualified at Level 4 or above (26.8% compared to 33.9% nationally) and more people with no qualifications (20.2% compared to 18.1% nationally).

Chesterfield Growth Strategy 2023-2027

Future growth areas include green/low carbon and digital/data-based roles.

Chesterfield Skills Plan, 2023-2027

Chesterfield's youth unemployment (18-24) rate currently stands at 7.9% (compared to 5.8% nationally) and is consistently ~2% points above the national average.

Chesterfield Borough Council Economic Assessment

High rates of economic inactivity: 21% of working age population are inactive

The East Midlands faces significant skills and employment challenges

Skills & Employment Overview (EMCCA)

6 in 10 young people who are NEET today have never had a job, up from 4 in 10 in 2005

The proportion of disabled NEET citing mental health as their primary condition has almost doubled to more than four in ten.

NEET rate could increase to over 16%, or more than 1.25 million young people not fully able to participate in society, within 5 years.

Young people and work: interim report – Alan Milburn

The Indices of Deprivation (2019) ranks Chesterfield as the 86th most deprived district in the country (out of 317 districts).

41% of colleges say mental health referrals have been significantly higher since the pandemic.

Mind Charity, Prince's Trust, and Association of Colleges

Connectivity

CCG is extremely well connected. CCG's main campus is in the heart of Chesterfield with a wholly owned subsidiary delivering apprenticeships in Derby. Chesterfield Railway Station, which is a short walk from the Chesterfield campus, provides excellent rail links throughout the country. The Chesterfield campus is based in the centre of the M1 corridor with easy access to local cities such as Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield. CCG delivers all aspects of provision, with the exception of land based, servicing circa 6,000 students from entry level through to degree and masters level in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University and other professional awarding bodies.

Over the last eight years, CCG has secured significant investment to improve the facilities and resources for students, apprentices and staff.

In April 2022, CCG successfully secured £17.2m of Further Education Capital Transformation funding to build a new Advanced Manufacturing Academy which will also support the development of the skills required to deliver the Government's targets for climate change.

Working in close collaboration with the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Colleges' Group, CCG has formed well

respected strategic partnerships to deliver strategic development fund projects linked to the development of new technologies, including additive manufacturing and vehicle electrification.

The CCG community, led by the Senior Management Team, engages effectively with key stakeholders and has well established relationships with the local authorities, Chamber of Commerce, schools and universities, in addition to working with over 1,500 employers.

The Principal is a member of various Boards which help shape the future of the town and surrounding areas and

CCG is leading on a Construction Skills Hub in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and the Devonshire Group.

The Skills Hub provides an onsite training facility as part of the Staveley Town Deal where students and apprentices work onsite in a real work environment alongside the developers, building 650 new homes and community facilities in the local area and has, this year, secured a Beacon Award.



Inspiring futures
Changing lives

Approach To Developing The Annual Accountability Statement

The annual Accountability Statement (AS) has been developed in conjunction with the development of the new Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and EMCCA. The Principal sits on the LSIP Steering Group.

In addition, the plan has been developed with support of the EMCCA Colleges' Group, whose Principals meet on a regular basis.

The plan has also been informed by a strategic day with EMCCA and Principals in May 2026.

The curriculum planning outcomes feature as a significant contributing factor, having consulted with staff, students, employers and other key stakeholders.





Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

People

Caring, responsive and customer focused. We create a culture of innovation, developing our people to have the skills and confidence to learn and work in an ever changing world.

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 1

1.1 Prioritise the wellness of CCG's community

1.2 Support all students and apprentices in their personal and wider development that will help them to grow, not just academically, but also socially, emotionally, and morally.

1.3 Continuous development of student and staff digital literacy skills.

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

(a) Embed a comprehensive Wellbeing Strategy designed to benefit both students and staff.

(b) Demonstrate continued commitment to the Association of Colleges' (AoC) Mental Health Charter, which outlines themes which are clearly linked to the Department for Education (DfE) principles of a whole college approach to mental health.

(c) Implement the new Workload Support Plan and Workload Agreement.

(a) Further embed the 'Empower' personal development programme where all students and apprentices develop their personal, social, health and employability skills as enablers to secure good jobs.

(b) Implement new strategies and further investment in enhancing work experience opportunities and industry placements for 1,200 students.

(c) Deliver the high value course premium for Construction securing 60 students meeting all three elements.

(a) Develop and deliver a suite of short digital programmes using the Growth and Skills Levy, including, AI delivery and leadership to 20 employees.

(b) Deliver a new HTQ in Cyber Security and Cloud Computing to 10 students.

(c) Deliver new T Level in Digital Support and Security to 32 students over two pathways.

(d) Redesign the Level 2 Digital Transition Programme to assist with progression with delivery to 16 students.



Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

Strategic Intent – Performance

Developing skills, maximising potential, achieving success.

Our students progress to high quality destinations to fulfil their life ambitions.

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 2

2.1 Continuously evolve our curriculum for young people, by anticipating the future jobs market and equipping our students with cutting edge skills for lifelong success.

2.2 Continue to deliver upskilling/reskilling programmes for adults to address the lower level of attainment in the region and to address the new EMCCA Skills Strategy.

2.3 Continue to improve the quality of education and outcomes for all students

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

-
- (a) Continue with the growth of T-Levels. Target: Introduce 3 new pathways from September 2026, targeting 50 starts in Engineering, Digital and Assisting Teaching pathways.
 - (b) Commence with year 4 delivery of onsite construction skills to 80 students at the Construction Skills Hub in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and The Devonshire Group.
 - (c) Work closely with employer partners to plan the curriculum in line with emerging employment opportunities and to develop the skills required to contribute to the local and national economy. Employer advisory boards held in all curriculum areas by July 2027.
 - (d) Introduce the new Steps 2 programme for 88 students which will replace selected Entry Level 3/Level 1 programmes where progression outcomes have been weak. Re-engaging students who benefit from non-traditional approaches as part of our NEET strategy.

-
- (a) Engage and deliver sustainable construction programmes to a minimum of 20 adults at the Construction Skills Hub in Staveley, by July 2027.
 - (b) Tailor sector-based work academies to meet the job demands. Target: support the recruitment of 30 new jobs.

-
- (a) An increase in the number of young people leaving with a Level 2 English and maths qualification. Target: Increase GCSE progress of one grade by 5% from 2025/26.
 - (b) Continue to improve apprenticeship achievement rates. Target: 70% achievement rate.
 - (c) Achievement rates for ages 16-18 to improve by 1%.
 - (d) Adult achievement rates to improve by 2%.



Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

Strategic Intent – Performance Continued

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 2

2.4 In line with government policy and intelligence, carry out a full review of our apprenticeship offer to meet employment demand.

2.5 Undertake a full review of provision for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) students.

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

-
- (a) Work with employers to co-design bespoke apprenticeship programmes to support progression opportunities as part of succession planning and meet local skills needs.
 - (b) Commence delivery of the new Business Administration standard at Level 2 - target 30 starts, Level 4 Artificial Intelligence and Automation Practitioner - target 4 starts, Level 3 Cyber Security Technician - target 6 starts, Level 2 Multi Channel Marketeer - target 6 starts, and Lean Manufacturing Level 2 - target 10 starts.
 - (c) Target growth in starts of 10% overall

-
- (a) Review and implement new infrastructure.
 - (b) Redesign curriculum including Steps 2.
 - (c) Develop an implementation plan for the Inclusive Mainstream Fund.

Inspiring futures
Changing lives



Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

Strategic Intent – Prosperity

Financially sound, equipped to flourish. We work together to secure re-investment in our college community.

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 3

3.1 Leading on the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer, work in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and Job Centre Plus to engage with young people aged 18-21 to reduce non-employment rates and increase employment opportunities.

3.2 Implementing a medium to long term capital investment plan to ensure capital investment meets industry requirements.

3.3 Improve our systems and processes and identify opportunities for reducing workload and enhancing the student experience. By optimising our systems, we will create a more effective and supportive educational environment.

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

- (a) Place young people with a matched employer through our dedicated recruitment service and connect young people with potential employers through job fairs, internships, work experience and apprenticeships. Target: 35 young people transition into employment.
- (b) Provide tailored support for young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Target: 40 young people enrol into further education; 90 young people attend a development workshop at the Empowering Futures Hub.
- (c) Implement the Give Me A Chance campaign to recruit students into employment within the industry they have trained

- (a) Further Education College Condition Allocation (FECCA) grant: 5-year estates and capital plan that utilises the FECCA grant in enhancing the wider estate to accommodate demographic increases expected over the next three to four years.
- (b) Equipment capital planning to ensure industry standard equipment for curriculum in conjunction with employers, and in line with technological advances and industry specialisms for high priority sectors.

- (a) Invest in external support to undertake a comprehensive review of all systems. This review will aim to streamline operations, eliminate inefficiencies, and implement improvements that support both staff and students.



Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

Strategic Intent – Planet

Respecting our planet, protecting our environment. Our curriculum equips students and the wider community with the skills and behaviours to protect our planet.

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 4

4.1 Evolve our curriculum to equip students and the wider community with skills and behaviours to protect our planet.

4.2 Develop the skills and knowledge of our staff to enable them to train our students in carbon literacy

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

(a) Continue with the sustainable project into the new Empower personal development programme. Continue to engage all schools through the Empower personal development curriculum in the volunteering sustainability project. Target: 2,000 student completions

(b) Development of dedicated alternative energy commercial courses. Target: 50 enrolments.

(a) Develop our teaching staff to deliver Carbon Literacy training to our students and apprentices. Target: 50 staff.

(b) Deliver a Green Skills changemakers Programme to 3% of staff to influence 85% of their colleagues.



Contribution To National, Regional And Local Priorities

Strategic Intent – Place

Respecting our planet, protecting our environment. Our curriculum equips students and the wider community with the skills and behaviours to protect our planet.

Strategic Aims and Objectives - Aim Objective 5

5.1 Collaborate with other local colleges to create a robust education network that benefits all students and enhances the quality of education.

5.2 Embrace and deliver local and national education strategy to meet the needs of our community and economy

5.3 Building strategic relationships with feeder schools and develop a transition strategy for all students

5.4 Further develop a strategic and operational relationship with EMCCA and the Colleges' Group to deliver on skills priorities for the region.

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

-
- (a) Continue to embed the higher skills strategy for Derbyshire in conjunction with Derby College and Burton and South Derbyshire College.
 - (b) Embark on year two of the Inter-College Competition between local Derbyshire colleges.
 - (c) Collectively deliver year two the outputs of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer alongside Derby College and Burton and South Derbyshire College.

-
- (a) Continue with the growth of T-Levels. Introduce 3 new pathways from September 2026.
 - (b) Deliver pre-employment training to 200 unemployed adults. 70% of achievers will be offered a guaranteed interview with a dedicated employer.
 - (c) Contribution to the achievement of the delivery plan of the Construction Technical Excellence College (CTEC) in the EMCCA region, alongside DCG outputs.

-
- (a) Continue and expand a structured transition programme with at least one additional secondary school in 2026/27.

-
- (a) Pilot an innovative programme to address the NEET agenda for the region.
 - (b) Work directly with EMCCA colleagues to maximise the effectiveness of the post-16 capacity fund.
 - (c) Continue with the strategic alignment and meeting infrastructure delivering the joint college/EMCCA action plan.
 - (d) Strengthen data sharing reporting to influence and endorse curriculum to contribute to regional economic growth.
 - (e) Deliver the Teacher Industry Exchange programme

Inclusive Mainstream Fund

Following an external SEND Reforms review, CCG is reviewing infrastructure to support high needs students and those declaring an additional need. The fund will support additional roles in curriculum and pastoral support, together with an extensive programme of workforce development and upskilling for staff.



Inspiring futures
Changing lives

Local Needs Duty

Through the continuation of development in our people and focus on building sustainable and trusted partnerships as highlighted in our Strategic Plan, CCG will continue to operate as an anchor organisation to address local skills needs in partnership with employers and stakeholders.

Our innovative approaches to building capacity and better serving our local economy will ensure that local businesses have the skills they need to succeed.

There are many examples already in place of strong collaboration with employers to design provision to meet their needs and the college is front and centre in working to shape the combined authority's skills agenda.

As an example of building meaningful relationships, new formal collaboration was launched in September 2024 with the Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Trust.

CCG has overhauled the design of curriculum planning which puts employers and students at the heart of the curriculum intent.

This ensures that not only is the curriculum fit for purpose and constantly reviewed, but it is also flexible and agile and varied in delivery methodologies to fit in with an ever-changing world.

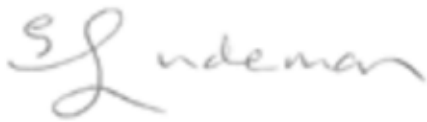


Inspiring futures
Changing lives

Corporation Statement

On behalf of Chesterfield College Group Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Corporation at its meeting on 1 July 2026.

The plan will be published on The Chesterfield College Group's website and will be updated annually.

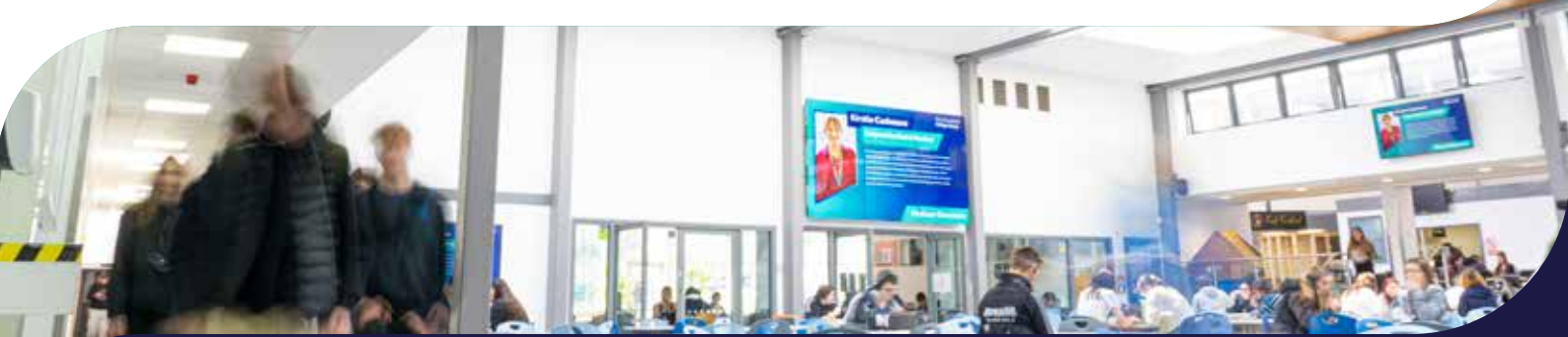


Chair of Governors



Principal and CEO/Accounting Officer

Dated: 1 July 2026





Reference To Relevant Support Documentation

www.chesterfield.ac.uk/knowledge-base/accountability/

Chesterfield College Ofsted Inspection Report

Chesterfield College Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Skills Improvement Plan

Chesterfield Growth Strategy 2023-2027

Chesterfield Skills Plan 2023-2027

East Midlands Combined County Authority Inclusive Growth Plan

Industrial Strategy

Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022

SEND reforms

Staveley Construction Skills Hub Contract

Occupancy List Report/ILR

Curriculum Planning Process

T Level Implementation Plan

16-18 Engagement Plan

