

**The
Sheffield
College**



ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

2025–2026



PURPOSE

Our new Strategic Plan 2025–2030 clearly outlines our aims and ambitions as a college. The strategy has four key themes against which progress and impact will be measured:

- Learning
- People
- Partnerships
- Sustainability

The new plan has been developed to align with the skills landscape both nationally and locally. As a college, we are committed to ensuring that our provision aligns with the skills needs of Sheffield and the wider region.



CONTEXT AND PLACE

The Sheffield College is an anchor institution within the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, serving the needs of the people of Sheffield and its communities. The college also has a clear focus on delivering national priorities and supporting the development of the economy.

Offering a wide range of vocational, technical and academic qualifications to enhance qualifications, skills and employability across the region, approximately 40% of 16–19 year-olds in Sheffield choose to study with us each year.



We are an
Ofsted graded

GOOD
college

Approximately

54%

of the college student
population come from areas
of high deprivation

Over

30%

of our 16–18 year-olds
receive financial support



Teaching
Excellence
Framework

We are a TEF
Silver provider

Total number
of students

14,500

in 2023/24

THE NUMBERS

We currently
work with around

1,538

employers

Approximately

1,890

Apprentices trained with
the college during 2023–24

In the last year

780

16–18 year-old Apprentices
trained with us

In the last year

1,110

adult Apprentices
trained with us

We received

**NATIONAL
RECOGNITION**

and College of Sanctuary
status for providing
inclusive education

We are the UK's

5TH

biggest FE college
for 16–19 students
(excluding college
groups)

THE IMPACT

In 2023/24
we provided

3,095

students with over
£2.5 million worth of
support to help with
their studies

We currently
have

21

Employer Skills
Academics covering a
variety of sectors and
subject areas

Nearly

1,900

Apprentices in learning
last year

70%

our HE students are from
the 40% of areas which have
the lowest rates of HE
participation nationally,
contributing to positive
social mobility

In 2023/24 our
students achieved

2,560

GCSE English and
Maths qualifications
between them

So far in
2023/24

177,451

hours of work-related
activity has been
recorded by
students

Over

2,680

students left us with
a Level 3 qualification
in 2023/24

13,380

adult qualifications
achieved in 2023/24

191

students accessing life
changing opportunities
through the
Turing Scheme

3RD

in National Centre
for Diversity's most
inclusive UK
Employers list

APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

Our Accountability Statement has been developed by the Executive and College Leadership Teams at The Sheffield College, in consultation with the Governing Body.

The statement is informed by a wide range of engagement undertaken by college leaders with stakeholders and representation on key boards and partnerships.

Collaborative working is a core feature of the way South Yorkshire Further Education Colleges operate across South Yorkshire. The desire for closer partnership working was clearly evidenced by the launch of a formal South Yorkshire College Partnership (SYCP) in 2022. This now forms the basis for considering the way colleges access and implement new curriculum and funding opportunities and how we secure the right offer for businesses and residents in the South Yorkshire community.

Please [click here](#) to see our The South Yorkshire Collaborative Annual Accountability Statement.

Stakeholders that have been engaged include:



CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The Department for Education has identified the following as national skills priority areas. It is in this context that the college has set its priorities for 2025–26.

- advanced manufacturing
- creative industries
- defence
- digital and technologies
- financial services
- life sciences
- professional and business services
- clean energy industries
- construction
- health



OUR OBJECTIVES FOR 2025—2026



ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS 2025–2026

THEME	ACCOUNTABILITY TARGET
Young People	– Growth in 16-19 student numbers of 4ppt from 2024/25
Adult	– Growth in adult English and maths qualifications of 3ppt from 2024/25
SEND	– Growth of SEND student numbers at Bloom: Preparation for Adulthood of 30ppt from 2024/25
Engineering, Manufacturing and Motor Vehicle	– Growth in student numbers in engineering, manufacturing and motor vehicle of 5ppt from 2024/25
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Growth in student numbers in construction trades of 10ppt from 2024/25 – Students will have access to outstanding facilities
Health and Social Care	– Growth in student numbers in health and social care of 7ppt from 2024/25
Business, Professional and Digital	– Growth of student numbers in business, professional and digital of 5ppt from 2024/25
Creative and Cultural	– Establishment of a Creative and Cultural Employer Skills Academy to ensure increased alignment of provision to sector needs and co-design and co-delivery introduced

YOUNG PEOPLE

Evidence of need

The population of 16 year olds is growing over the next 5 years and is expected to peak in 2028/29, with an increase of almost 1,000 Year 12s in Sheffield on 2022/23. In line with the South Yorkshire Skills Strategy, we have a core focus on increasing the number of young people in education and training, and reducing the number of NEET young people. Sheffield has high levels of young people who are NEET (8.7% NEET/NK compared to 5.4% nationally in 2023/24).

Strategic response

As the largest provider of 16-19 education in South Yorkshire, holding a 17% market share in 2023/24, we have a key role to play in equipping young people with the skills needed by the SYMCA economy. As the local population demographics change over the next few years and the number of 16 year olds in the region rises, we will continue to focus on providing high quality provision in line with local skills priorities and supporting participation in education amongst young people in South Yorkshire.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth in 16–19 student numbers of 4ppt from 2024/25



ADULT LEARNING

Evidence of need

In a fast-changing world, opportunities for adults to train, retrain and upskill are more important than ever. The skills profile of South Yorkshire continues to lag behind the national average. Fewer residents are qualified to Level 4 or above with more residents holding no formal qualifications than the national average.

Our adult provision aligns with the three core missions set out in the SYMCA Skills Strategy (2024):

1. Move those far from the labour market into work or ready for work
2. Raise attainment of core knowledge and skills, including maths, English and digital skills
3. Increase the supply of a high-skilled workforce

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth adult English and maths qualifications of 3ppt from 2024/25

Strategic response

The Sheffield College is one of the largest adult education providers in South Yorkshire, with almost 7,000 adult learners and holding a 27% share of the market in 2023/24. We continue to play a key role in raising the skills profile of the adult population in South Yorkshire.



Evidence of need

Levels of Special Educational Needs are rising amongst young people. Currently there are over 6,500 Year 7 – Year 11 students in Sheffield with either SEN support or an ECH Plan. As the Year 12 population grows over the next few years, the proportion of students with SEN will also grow.

Strategic response

In response to this growing need, we launched our new Bloom: Preparation for Adulthood provision this year, providing an exciting curriculum offer for young people with a range of needs, and we plan to grow this further in 2025/26.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth of SEND student numbers at Bloom:
Preparation for Adulthood of 30ppt from 2024/25



ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND MOTOR VEHICLE

Evidence of need

Engineering and manufacturing is a key priority for Sheffield and SYMCA, and features heavily in local policy including the SYMCA Strategic Economic Plan (2021-2041), South Yorkshire Plan for Good Growth Strategy (2024) and the Sheffield Growth Plan (2025 – 2035).

Strategic response

In response to this we have redeveloped our Advanced Technology Centre which will be fully open for the 2025/26 academic year, with planned 16-19 student numbers set to increase by 5% and overall growth of 27.4%

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth in student numbers in engineering, manufacturing and motor vehicle of 5ppt from 2024/25



CONSTRUCTION

Evidence of need

Demand for skilled workers in the construction sector is high and construction remains a key priority for The Sheffield College, with learner numbers growing significantly over the last few years and further growth forecast for 2025/26.

Strategic response

Our 16-19 construction cohort has grown by 46% since 2018/19, with further growth planned for 2025/26 with the introduction of new sustainable construction programmes.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth in student numbers in construction trades of 10ppt from 2024/25

Students will have access to outstanding facilities



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Evidence of need

Healthcare is a key priority for Sheffield and SYMCA, featuring heavily in local policy including the SYMCA Strategic Economic Plan (2021-2041) and the Sheffield Growth Plan (2025 – 2035). These policies highlight health as a sectoral strength of the region, critical to the city's continued growth and driving long-term economic renewal.

Strategic response

Our continued investment in this sector saw our new T Level Health Care Suite open in 2024/25, with record numbers of students planned in the 2025/26 academic year.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth in student numbers in health and social care of 7ppt from 2024/25



BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND DIGITAL

Evidence of need

Business and professional services is recognised as one of Sheffield's specialist sectors in the Sheffield Growth Plan (2025-2030), with local capabilities in the sector expected to attract investment, businesses and talent to the city, as well as enhance the city's reputation.

The South Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan is built on the trailblazer project, which identified a strong need for digital skills in the region. It sets out a clear message that South Yorkshire is under-supplied with digital skills and that demand for these skills is growing and changing.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Growth of student numbers in business, professional and digital of 5ppt from 2024/25

Strategic response

We will continue to grow our provision in areas where there are key business skills gaps such as coding, team leading and digital marketing, alongside programmes designed to support enterprise and new business start-ups.



CREATIVE & CULTURAL

Evidence of need

The creative and cultural sector is a key priority in Sheffield and the wider South Yorkshire area, with the ambition to create a “Creative and Entrepreneurial Sheffield” as set out in the City Goals. The Sheffield Culture Strategy for 2035 (as part of the Sheffield Growth Plan) aims to Ignite, Accelerate and Elevate cultural potential in Sheffield through a range of measures, including investment in skills provision and improved pathways into the sector.

ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS

Establishment of a Creative and Cultural Employer Skills Academy to ensure increased alignment of provision to sector needs and co-design and co-delivery introduced.

Strategic response

To develop an initiative that will foster closer collaboration with sector partners, enabling the co-design and co-delivery of curriculum and training that directly responds to industry demands and future skills requirements.



LOCAL NEEDS DUTY

The college's Governing Body has a duty to keep its provision under review in relation to local needs. To help meet that duty the Governing Body commissioned KADA Research Ltd in 2023 to conduct independent research into what the college provides and the extent to which it is meeting skills needs.

The final report informed the college's Accountability Statement. [Click here](#) to see the independent review.



CORPORATION STATEMENT

It is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the board on 11 June 2025. The plan will be published on the college's website within three months of the start of the new academic year and fulfils the statutory local needs duty.



Angela Foulkes,
Chief Executive



John Mothersole,
Chair of Governors

Angela Foulkes *John Mothersole*

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Public information and policies,](#)
including annual financial statements

[Local needs duty,](#)
[KADA independent review](#)

[Funders and partners](#)

[Ofsted inspection report](#)

[LSIP](#)