



Tees Valley Colleges

Curriculum Review 2024



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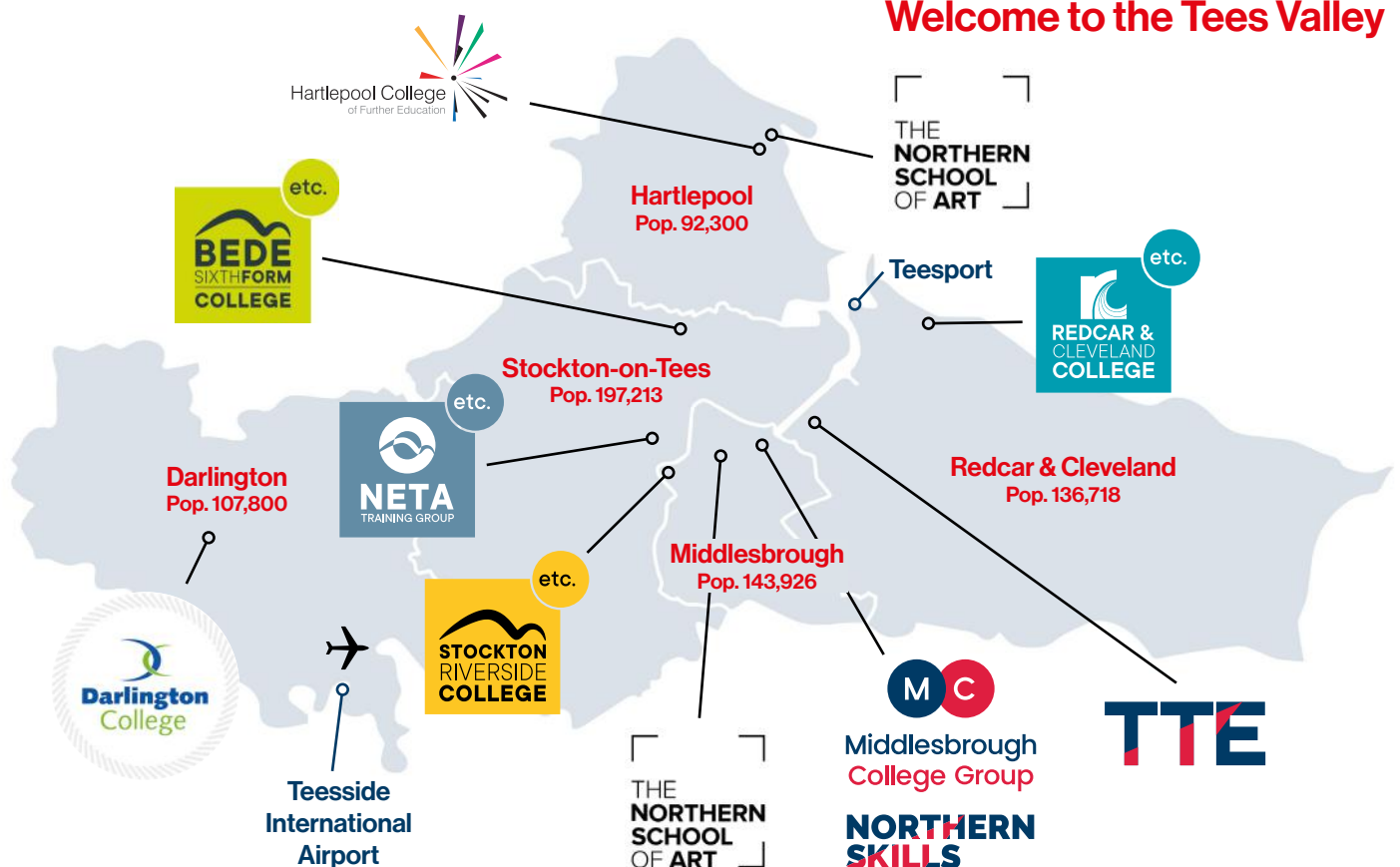
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Your Tees Valley Skills Providers

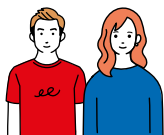
The Tees Valley has five first-class further education colleges which specialise in providing local businesses with the skills they need. Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton Riverside Colleges (Etc.) all deliver employer-led technical training courses from state-of-the-art facilities across the region, with specialisms varying from chemical and manufacturing, to subsea and aircraft maintenance, to fabrication and welding. Tees Valley is also home to the Northern School of Art, the leading provider of creative art and design degrees in the North.

Welcome to the Tees Valley



What do we do?

We Teach:



10,700

16-18 year olds



11,300

Adult students



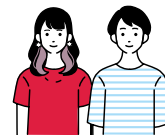
4,500

Apprentices



2,200

Higher Education
students



300

14-16 Year olds



7,000

Commercial
students

We Support:



4,200

Employers with their
workforce
needs



5,300

Students with
careers advice



5,100

Students
into work
placements



1,700

Students into
University



300

Ext. agencies
to link with our
students



1,600

Vulnerable
young
people



540

High needs
students

**We participate on
national forums
and lobby groups**

**Our campuses
are worth £267m
collectively**

**We employ over
2805 members
of staff**

**We have a
collective
turnover of £130m**

Our Governing Bodies have strong links to industry, examples include:

North Tees NHS Foundation Trust
Hartlepool Borough Council
Keltbray Group
Lightcast
Esh Group
Tees Components
NEECC

Alt Labs
Railpen
FUJIFILM Diosynth
Biotechnologies
NHS Foundation Trust
PD Ports
xsite architecture LLP

Different Narrative
Northumbrian Water Group
General Medical Council
PX Engineering Consultants
Durham University
Occupational Awards Limited
Virtual School Head Darlington

Who are we?



Four General Further Education Colleges and one specialist College situated in the Tees Valley that have worked effectively and collaboratively since 2001.

Aim: To strengthen and underpin the individual and collective position of member colleges through collaborative working in the interests of learners, employers and the wider community.

What do we do?

- Collaborate to deliver LSIF/TVCA* skills priorities
- Enhance the quality of our teaching, learning & assessment practice
- Support inward investors and local employers with their skills needs
- Attract capital investment into the Tees Valley to ensure facilities and equipment are industry standard
- Speak with one voice with regards to FE in the Tees Valley
- Represent the Tees Valley on the North East and national stage
- Support the work of key employer representative bodies in the area
- Help shape FE policy regionally and nationally

* LSIF - Local Skills Improvement Fund / TVCA - Tees Valley Combined Authority



£5.30
Returned for every pound
taxpayers invested

This is from an expanded tax base, reduced crime, lower unemployment, and increased health and well-being.

Sector Coverage



A Levels



Business



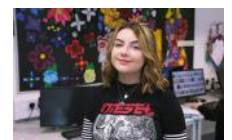
Catering & Hospitality



Childcare



Construction



Design & Creative Arts



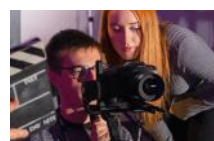
Digital, Games & Media



Engineering



Fashion & Fashion Communications



Film, Television & Theatre Production



Hair & Beauty



Health & Social Care



Motor Vehicle



Music Technology & Practice



Performing Arts, Acting & Theatre Operations



Sport, Leisure & Public Services



T Levels



Travel, Tourism & Aviation



Inclusive Learning



Access to HE



Higher Education



Adult & Community Learning



GCSEs, ESOL & Functional Skills



Employers, Bootcamps & Apprenticeships

FE+ SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>High quality offer</p> <p>High quality facilities</p> <p>Curriculum alignment to high value jobs</p> <p>Good progression to higher levels & apprenticeships</p> <p>Strong apprenticeships in priority sectors</p> <p>Accessible, good value, flexible HE</p> <p>Responsive bespoke adult offer</p> <p>Inclusive offer</p> <p>Excellent employer partnerships</p> <p>Strong support for inward investors</p> <p>High quality specialist provision</p> <p>Strong commercial offer to meet employer needs</p>	<p>Collectively under-serving low wage economy for school leavers</p> <p>Prolonged lack of investment risks future quality</p>

Opportunities	Threats
<p>Teesworks / Freeport</p> <p>Darlington Economic Campus</p> <p>Ageing workforce/urgent replacement demands</p> <p>Childcare scheme</p> <p>Health innovation zone</p> <p>Devolution of adult skills</p> <p>LSIF/SDF response plan – apps incentives</p> <p>Over 50s – returners</p> <p>Soft Skills Development</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <p>CPD / Staff Recruitment</p> <p>Business board employer incentives</p>	<p>Low job density / high economic inactivity</p> <p>Lack of high value jobs</p> <p>Eton / UTC – potential duplication, undermine area review recommendations.</p> <p>Low demand for apprenticeships</p> <p>Talent leaves the area (HE 45%)</p> <p>Young people post covid:</p> <p>Mental health concerns</p> <p>Apathy towards education</p> <p>NEETS</p>

Tees Valley Labour Market Information

Business base

There are 17,930 businesses in the Tees Valley, of which 88% are micro-businesses employing between 0-9 people; 10% are small businesses with 10-49 employees; 2% are medium sized businesses, employing between 50-249 people; and the remaining 1% are large businesses with more than 250 employees.

The greatest proportion of businesses are in the Professional, Scientific and Technical (18%); Construction (14%), and Accommodation and Food Services (9%) sectors.

Skills demand

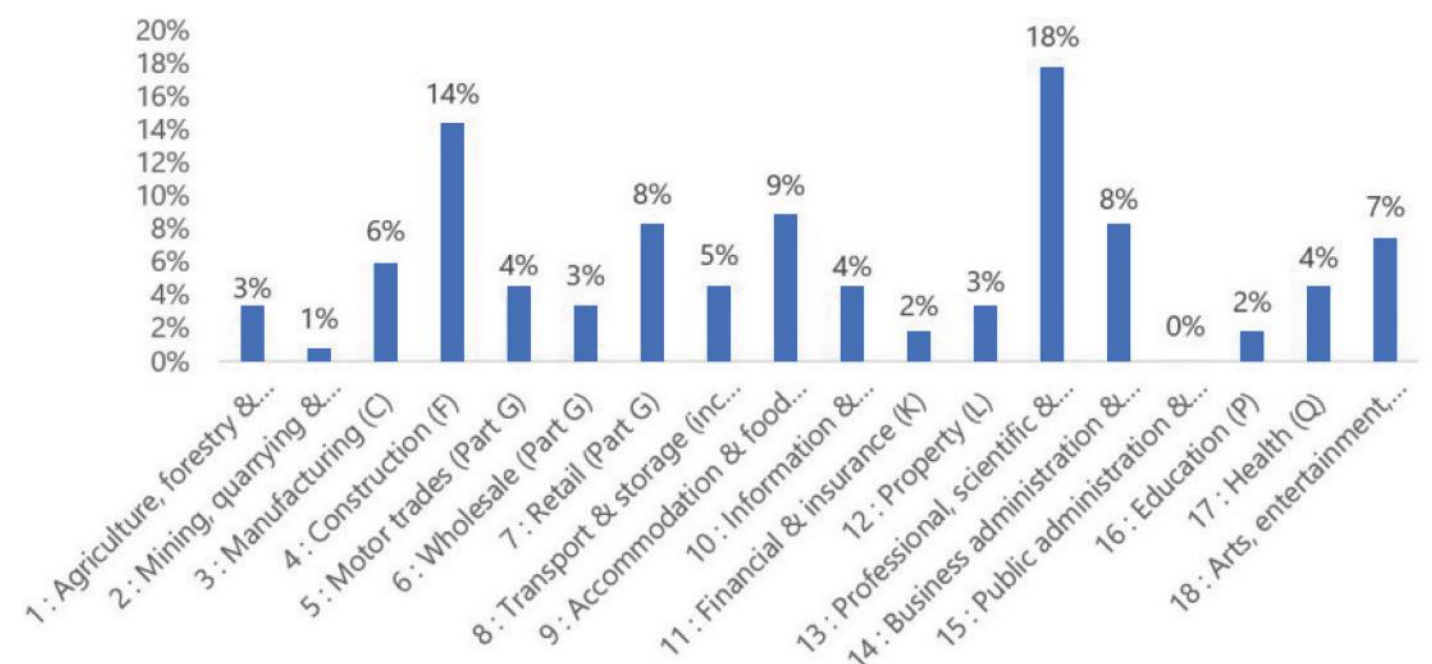
There are projected to be 10,000 job openings per year to 2027 in Tees Valley, with three quarters of those jobs requiring higher level skills. In addition, a further 41,000 jobs are expected by 2030 because of the Freeport proposition.

However, there is low demand currently for graduate level skills and over a quarter of Tees Valley graduates are currently working in non-graduate roles. This may result in people with no qualifications being further displaced from the labour market.

Replacement jobs will be across a range of levels, including entry level jobs offered as part-time opportunities and apprenticeships.

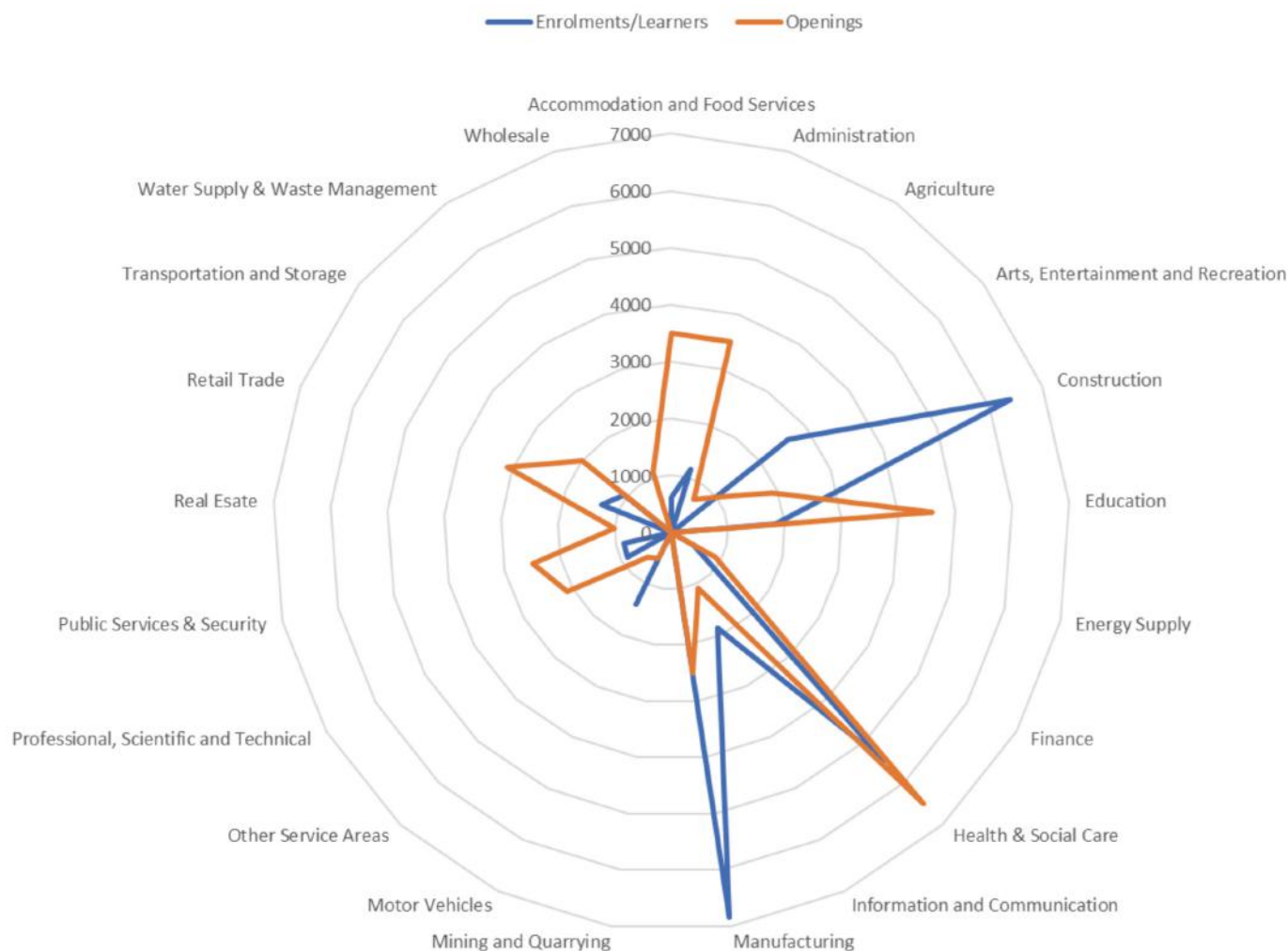
Source: Tees Valley Skills Demand Analysis (August 2020)

Proportion of business by sector



Source: ONS: Business Counts (2022)

How we map to our local economy

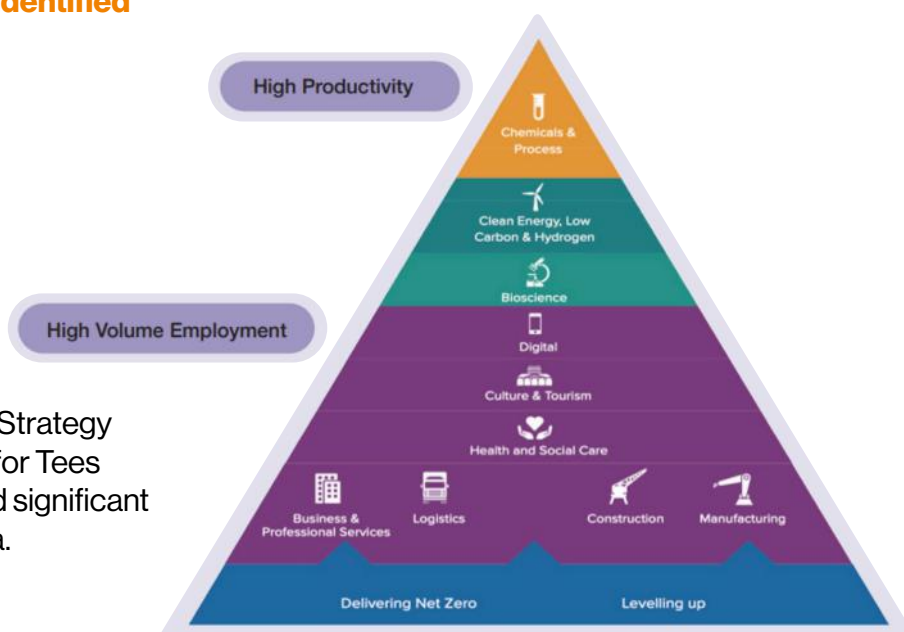


Source: EMSI – from Middlesbrough College Group

Tees Valley Combined Authority has identified the following key priority sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Process, Chemicals and Energy
- Business and Professional Services
- Logistics
- Culture and Leisure
- Health and Biologies
- Digital and Creative

The Tees Valley Employment and Skills Strategy 2022 sets out the future skills priorities for Tees Valley, aligned to the growth sectors and significant economic opportunities across the area.



Source: Tees Valley Employment and Skills Strategy

Growth and opportunity sectors

The table below confirms the revised job creation figures broken down by sector

Net Job Creation, 2016-2026	Original	Revised
Low Carbon / Process, chemical and energy	+2,500	+2,000
Advanced Manufacturing	+2,500	+1,500
Other Manufacturing	-5,000	-4,000
Construction	+4,000	+3,000
Professional and business services	+8,000	+7,000
Logistics	+2,000	+3,000
Digital	+2,000	+3,000
Higher Education	+1,000	+1,000
Health and social care	+4,000	+3,500
Services	+4,000	+2,000
Culture and leisure	-	+3,000
Total	+25,000	+25,000

Source: Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2026

Low Carbon Energy:

This sector is expected to create thousands of new, high-quality jobs in Tees Valley in the coming years in businesses operating at the Teesworks site, as well as major new inward investors and Tees Valley's existing energy and engineering business base.

There will also be significant demand for workforce upskilling as businesses re-train staff in new and emerging low carbon technologies. Growing occupations and skill areas will include renewable energy engineers, wind turbine and maintenance technicians, project management, health & safety, and skilled trades in engineering and fabrication. At least 25% of jobs will be at Level 4 or above.

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering:

While new jobs growth will be more modest in this sector there will be significant demand for new employees to replace workers leaving the industry, as well as growing demand to upskill the workforce in response to rapid changes in technology (e.g. growing automation and robotics, energy efficient lean manufacturing).

Most skills demand will come from Tees Valley's world leading chemicals and process sector, its engineering and fabrication businesses, and decommissioning, oil, gas, and subsea firms.

Key occupations and skill areas will include engineers, technicians, skilled trades (e.g. welders, electricians), manufacturing operators, project management, and health & safety.

Construction:

Growing demand for construction skills in Tees Valley is concentrated in specialisms and linked to key investment projects, most notably development and construction work at the Teesworks site. Significant new job creation, as well as demand for workforce upskilling, will be generated by large-scale civil construction and industrial decommissioning projects at Teesworks and elsewhere in Tees Valley.

Housing construction and retrofit is also growing significantly, focused on the installation of new energy efficient technologies. Growing occupations include skilled construction trades, construction project managers, technical roles (e.g. engineers, quantity surveyors).

There will be significant demand to upskill existing workers in general construction skills (e.g. skilled trades, scaffolding, lifting & rigging, health & safety), as well as the installation of new energy efficiency technologies such as solar PV, air source heat pumps, and low carbon cladding.

Logistics:

Tees Valley's transport and logistics sector is growing quickly with many successful local businesses (e.g. Teesport, Teesside Airport, UK-leading road haulage firms) moving goods and people by road, rail, air and sea.

As the local economy expands and major investments such as Teesworks and the Freeport significantly increase the scale of production in Tees Valley, the logistics sector will continue to grow. The industry is acutely affected by skills shortages and recruitment difficulties, creating new opportunities for young people and for re-training adults to join the workforce.

Key occupations and skill areas will include drivers (HGV, LGV, forklift), warehouse operatives, logistics managers, and digital project managers. There is also demand for workforce upskilling in warehousing, vehicle maintenance, customer services, and team working.

Healthcare:

A large and important sector in Tees Valley, offering skilled jobs for thousands of people, and providing a vital service for the local population which is ageing and has a higher-than-average incidence of poor health. While new jobs growth will be modest there will be significant demand for new employees to replace workers leaving the sector, as well as growing demand to upskill the workforce in response to rapid changes in technology (e.g. new treatments, digitisation of patient monitoring).

Most demand will come from NHS employers and private businesses, including social care providers, with the key occupations and skill areas required including nurses (across a range of specialisms), nursing auxiliaries and assistants, care workers, and managers.

Over half of all jobs will require staff qualified at Levels 4 or 5 and above. The sector will also generate demand in upskilling existing workers in health care specialisms (e.g. mental health, dementia), as well as patient care, communication, team working, and digital technologies.

Business and professional services:

This is one of the largest employment sectors in Tees Valley, providing tens of thousands of jobs, including financial and legal services; business process outsourcing and contact centres; and marketing, employment and rental agencies.

The sector is expected to create thousands of jobs in Tees Valley in the coming years, including new roles and replacing people leaving the workforce. Key occupations and skill areas in demand include accountants, bookkeepers, tax assistants, financial managers, lawyers, HR managers, contact centre operators, and customer service representatives.

Businesses in this sector also require staff with higher level digital skills, including data analysts, software developers, and cyber security analysts. Basic digital skills are also an increasingly important requirement for all staff as more of the sector's services are digitalised, delivered online and automated. The sector is increasingly reliant on staff qualified at Level 4 or above.

Employment Context



As identified on the previous pages, the Tees Valley economy has many 'bright spots' in terms of its sectors, the fact that it is home to many world-leading firms as well as some economic metrics. For example, using September 2023 ONS data, more people are economically active in the Tees Valley compared to elsewhere in the North-East 76.9% and 74.7% respectively.

That said, compared to the whole nation (GB) and not the North-East (NE), economic data highlights some underlying weaknesses in the Tees Valley economy which underlines the extent of the challenges the area faces. For example, of the 23.1% residents who are economically inactive (21.2% for GB), 36.1% are so due to ill-health and this compares unfavourably nationally where the figure is 26.9%. 19.2% of Tees Valley households are workless compared to 13.9% nationally and 17.6% of Tees Valley children are in workless households; this is 10.3% nationally.

In terms of the quality of employment in the Tees Valley, Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) data, (September 2022) highlights that 42.4% of Tees Valley workers are in the highest coded work (SOC 1-3) whereas nationally this figure is 52.6%. At the other end of the spectrum, 20.6% of Tees Valley workers are employed in lower-level employment (SOC 8-9) compared to 14.9% nationally. 18.1% (48,000) of Tees Valley workers work in human health and social work and 14% (37,000) work in wholesale and retail.

Work by Lancaster University's Work Foundation into insecure work found nearly one in four (24%) workers in the Tees Valley are in severely insecure work, compared to the national average of 19.8%. It has the highest level of severely insecure work out of all the City Regions and has a higher incidence of low paid work relative to England.

Across the Tees Valley, there is significant variation amongst the five local authorities. Middlesbrough is the hotspot for severely insecure work, with 29.8% of its workers in this type of employment. Redcar and Cleveland has the lowest proportion of severely insecure workers at 19.2%, which falls slightly below the national average. Analysis shows that women, workers from ethnic minority backgrounds, disabled workers, and workers between the ages of 16 and 24 are most likely to be in severely insecure work in the Tees Valley.



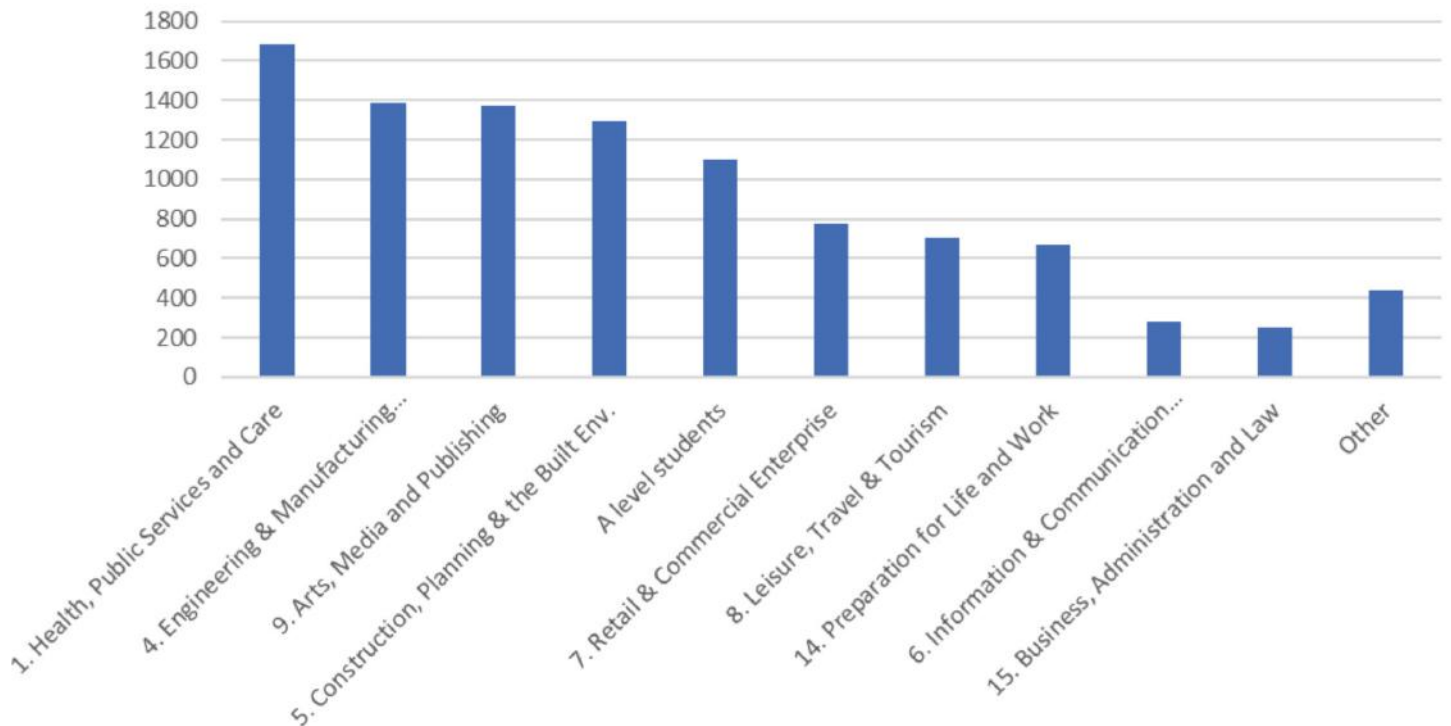
FE+ Overall Provision Map

SECTORS	Study Prog (Learners)	Adults (incl ALL, FCJ) (Enrolments)	Apprenticeships (Enrolments)	Full cost (commercial courses) (Enrolments)	HE (Enrolments)	TOTAL NO.s 22/23
A level students	1098					1098
1. Health, Public Services and Care	1686	3547	574	790	486	7083
Child development & well-being	289	302	110	30	104	835
Counselling	2	211	0	34	116	363
Health & Social Care	960	2640	176	719	217	4712
Dental	1	21	288	4	0	314
Public Services	427	277	0	3	49	756
Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied to Medicine	7	96	0	0	0	103
2. Science and Maths	121	1108	5	9	0	1243
Science	95	56	5	1	0	157
Maths	26	1052	0	8	0	1086
3. Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	0	1	0	0	0	1
Horticulture and Forestry	0	1	0	0	0	1
4. Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies	1391	2932	1099	2433	403	8258
Aerospace	39	1	6	0	83	129
Chemical	0	0	98	96	23	217
Electrical	303	0	74	66	99	542
Fabrication/Welding	121	55	182	111	21	490
Pipefitting	8	0	12	0	0	20
Automotive	154	11	42	1	0	208
Wind & Renewable Energy	53	236	0	13	0	302
Instrumentation & Control	48	205	32	7	20	312
Mechatronics / Electrotechnical	12	0	320	32	17	381
Mechanical	224	521	98	1907	75	2825
Manufacturing	15	414	0	0	0	429
Engineering	223	56	44	1	30	354
Process	29	23	60	75	35	222
Transport operations & maintenance	162	1111	131	76	0	1480
Other	0	299	0	48	0	347
5. Construction, Planning & the Built Env.	1293	1475	1369	2192	63	6392
Brickwork	259	22	142	2	0	425
Building and Construction	44	85	13	0	18	160
Construction & The Built Environment	95	57	125	1109	10	1396
Surveying & Design	17	0	32	0	0	49
Civil Engineering	16	0	57	0	0	73
Carpentry & Joinery	243	15	256	5	0	519
Electrical Installation	285	58	232	434	0	1009
Groundworks	20	921	22	0	0	963
Painting & Decorating	55	4	55	0	0	114
Plumbing, Heating and Ventilation	174	22	233	589	20	1038
Professional/Technical	0	13	202	53	15	283
General Trades	85	0	0	0	0	85
Other	0	278	0	0	0	278

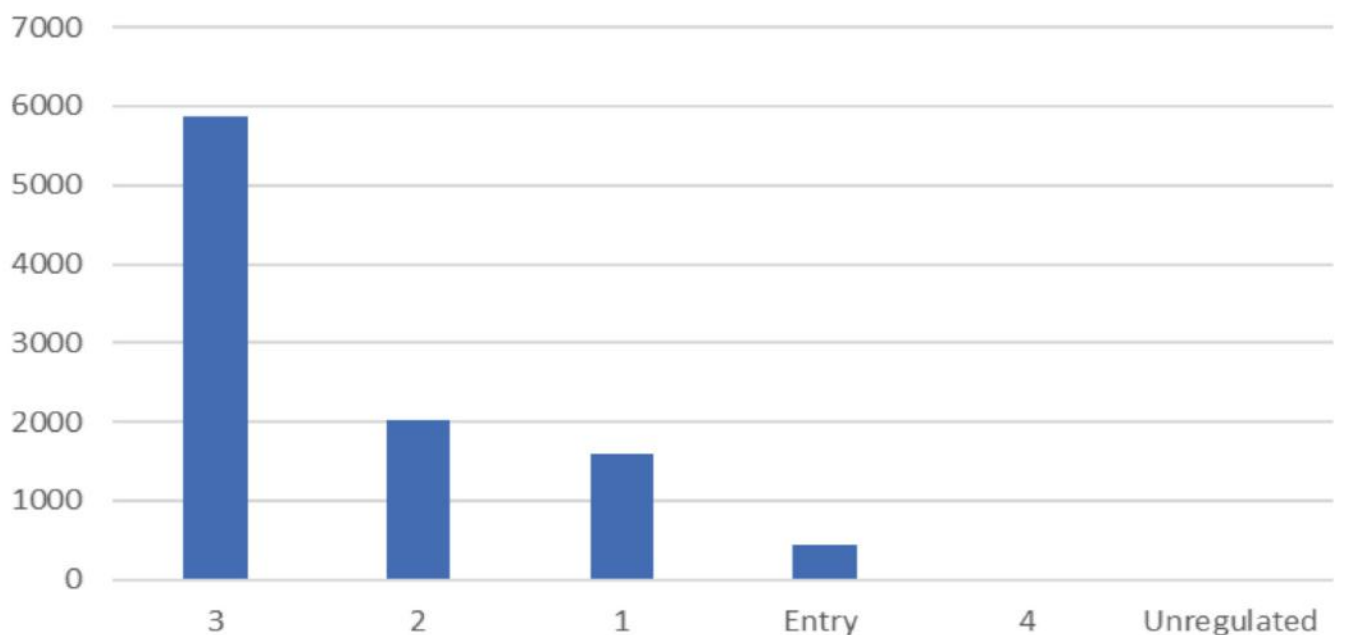
SECTORS	Study Prog (Learners)	Adults (incl ALL, FCI) (Enrolments)	Apprenticeships (Enrolments)	Full cost (commercial courses) (Enrolments)	HE (Enrolments)	TOTAL NO.s 22/23
6. Information & Communication Technology	277	510	112	14	122	1035
ICT practitioners	174	62	31	1	103	371
ICT users	1	372	0	11	0	384
Computing	47	0	16	1	0	64
Cyber Security	0	72	1	0	0	73
Programming	32	4	4	0	4	44
Networking	23	0	19	0	15	57
Digital Marketing	0	0	41	1	0	42
7. Retail & Commercial Enterprise	773	2028	207	96	52	3156
Retailing & Wholesaling	48	275	0	1	0	324
Service Enterprises	2	45	0	20	0	67
Warehousing & Distribution	3	1007	11	33	0	1054
Facilities	0	97	0	0	0	97
Hairdressing	215	98	74	16	0	403
Beauty Therapy	200	201	34	23	0	458
Media make up	42	1	0	0	0	43
Hospitality & Catering	237	303	88	3	52	683
Esports	26	1	0	0	0	27
8. Leisure, Travel & Tourism	704	111	20	35	119	989
Sport & Leisure	437	107	20	32	57	653
Aviation, Travel & Tourism	267	4	0	3	62	336
9. Arts, Media and Publishing	1371	219	104	67	601	2362
Performing Arts	298	24	0	3	134	459
Design	684	86	0	5	325	1100
Media and Communications	389	101	97	58	142	787
Publishing & Information Services	0	8	7	1	0	16
10. History, Philosophy and Theology	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Social Sciences	67	84	0	3	0	154
12. Languages, Literature and Culture	164	3529	0	34	0	3727
ESOL	140	2582	0	31	0	2753
Languages Literature and Culture of the British Isles	0	67	0	0	0	67
Languages Literature and Culture	3	28	0	1	0	32
English	21	852	0	2	0	875
13. Education and Training	84	407	47	215	248	1001
Initial Teacher Training	0	112	12	91	208	423
Teaching Assistants	84	295	35	11	40	465
Teacher CPD	0	0	0	113	0	113
14. Preparation for Life and Work	666	5281	0	675	0	6622
Preparation for Work	250	1798	0	19	0	2067
Foundation for Learning & Life	416	3483	0	656	0	4555
15. Business, Administration and Law	254	895	977	215	31	2372
Administration	33	343	346	3	0	725
Business, Administration and Law	3	0	10	32	4	49
Accounting	4	212	282	36	0	534
General Business	158	5	124	0	0	287
HR	0	0	10	0	0	10
Leadership/Management	49	316	165	128	22	680
Marketing	0	5	14	16	0	35
Law	7	14	26	0	5	52
TOTAL 22/23 ENTRIES FROM QAR	9,949	22,127	4,514	6,778	2,125	45493

16-19 Study Programmes

Study Programme Learners by Sector (16-19)

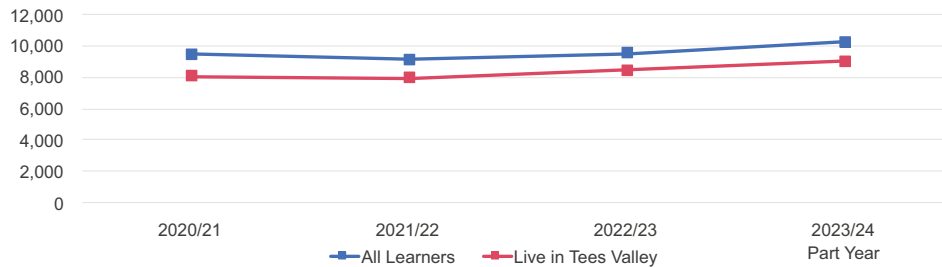


Study Programme Learners by Level (16-19)



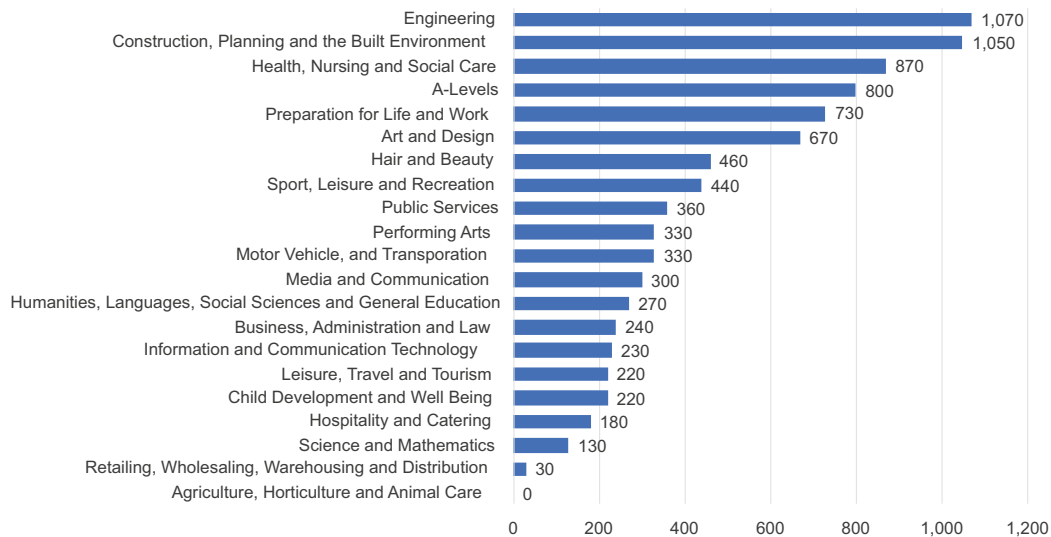
16-19 Funded Learners - Trends

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 (Part Year)	% Change 20/21 - 23/24
All Learners at Tees Valley Colleges	9,490	9,110	9,520	10,240	8%
Of which Live in Tees Valley	8,050	7,950	8,430	9,000	12%
% live in Tees Valley	85%	87%	89%	88%	-



Source: MIDES ILR 2020/21 to 2022/23 (R14) & 2023/24 (R06)

16-19 Funded Learners - Subject 2023/24



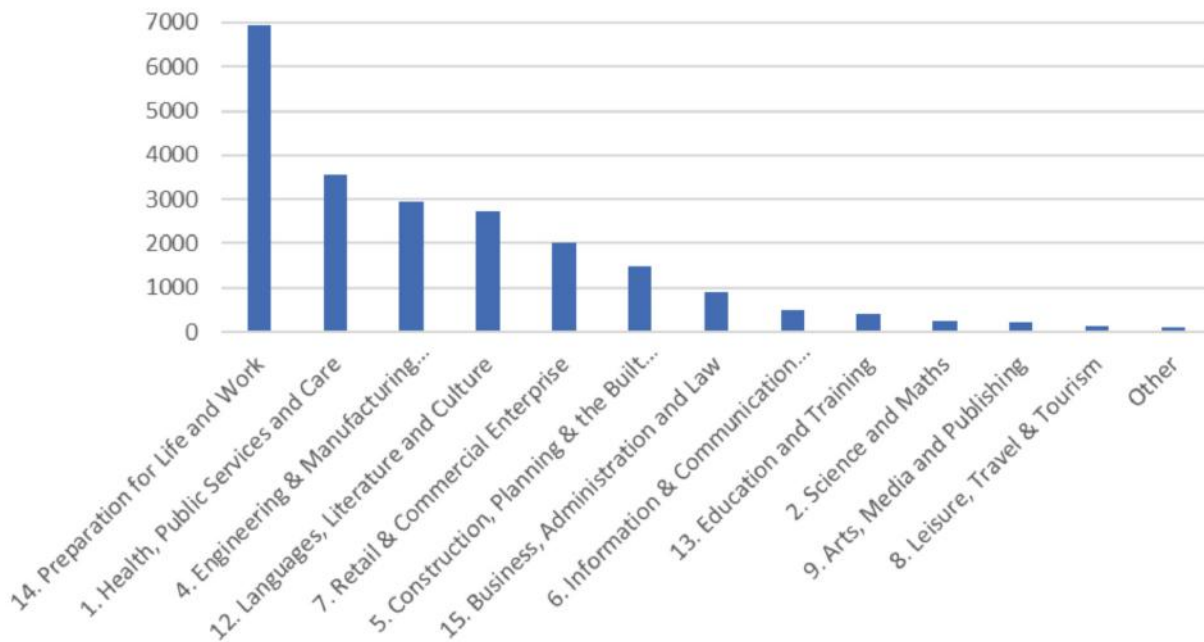
Source: MIDES ILR 2023/24 (R06)

16-19 Funded Learners - Subject

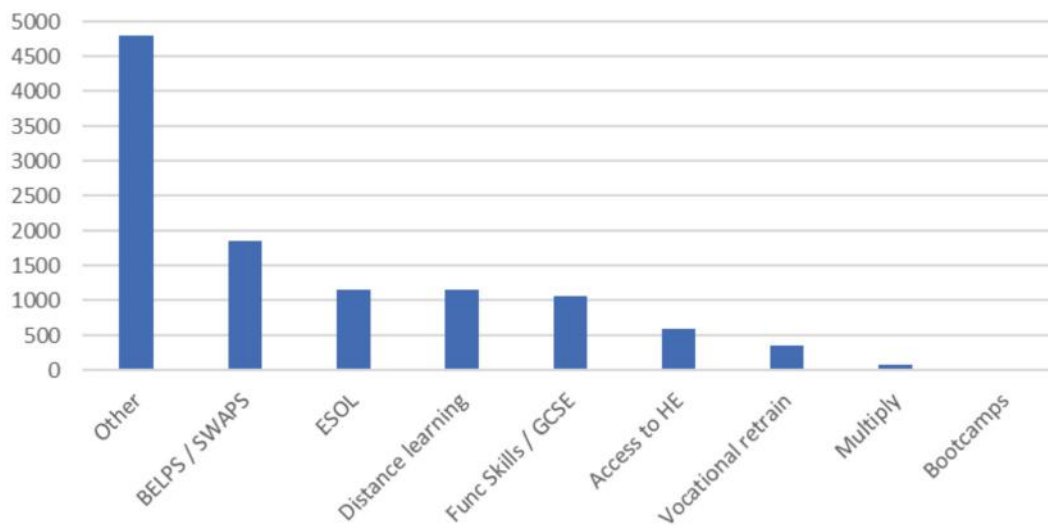
Subject Area (Based on Core Aim)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 (Part Year)	% Change 20/21 - 23/24
Health, Nursing and Social Care	840	880	870	870	4%
Public Services	380	370	340	360	-4%
Child Development and Well Being	290	280	210	220	-26%
Science and Mathematics	110	130	160	130	22%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	10	0	0	0	-
Engineering	1,020	910	930	1,070	5%
Motor Vehicle, and Transportation	330	320	340	330	-1%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	1,020	970	1,060	1,050	2%
Information and Communication Technology	230	220	240	230	0%
Retailing, Wholesaling, Warehousing & Distribution	30	50	50	30	-18%
Hair and Beauty	470	380	390	460	-1%
Hospitality and Catering	170	160	180	180	1%
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	360	370	360	440	22%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	120	110	140	220	87%
Performing Arts	270	260	260	330	21%
Media and Communication	250	280	290	300	23%
Art and Design	490	530	610	670	37%
Humanities, Langs., Social Sciences & General Ed	100	160	200	270	170%
Preparation for Life and Work	510	530	610	730	43%
Business, Administration and Law	250	290	210	240	-2%
A Levels	710	720	880	800	12%

Adult Programmes

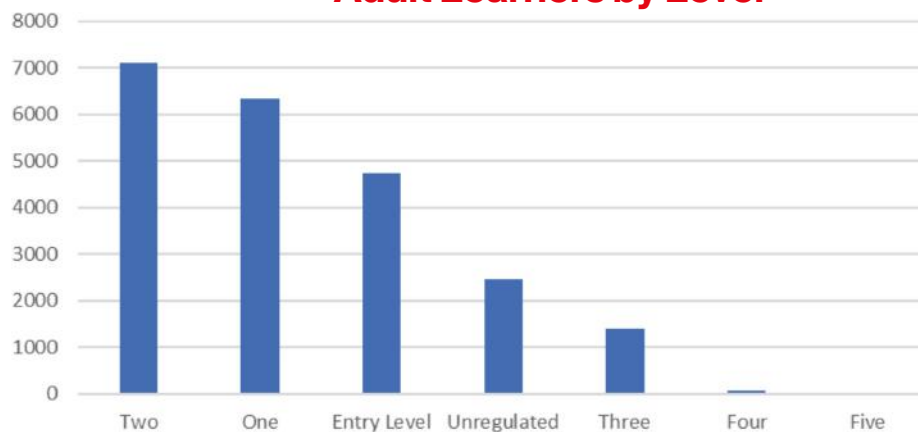
Adult Enrolments by Sector



Adult Learners by Provision Type

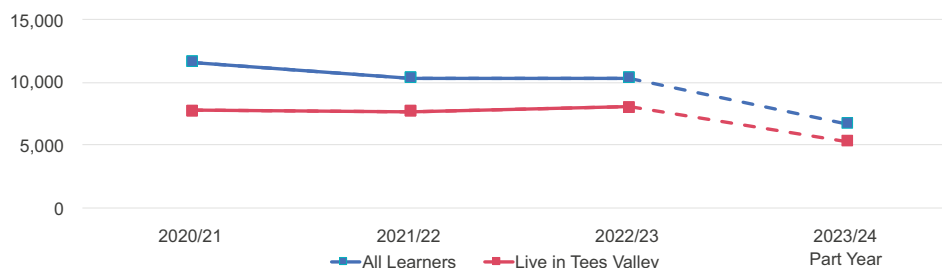


Adult Learners by Level



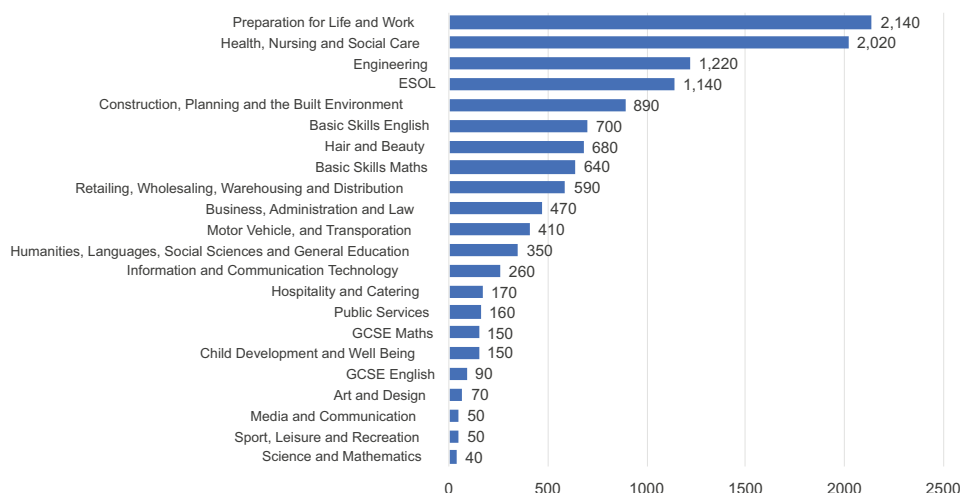
Adults EFSA Funded and Loans - Trends

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% Change 20/21 - 22/23	2023/24 (Part Year)
All Learners at Tees Valley Colleges	11,630	10,350	10,390	-11%	6,740
Of which Live in Tees Valley	7,760	7,700	8,070	4%	5,300
% live in Tees Valley	67%	74%	78%	-	79%



Source: MIDES ILR 2020/21 to 2022/23 (R14) & 2023/24 (R06)

Adults EFSA Funded and Loans - Subject 22/23



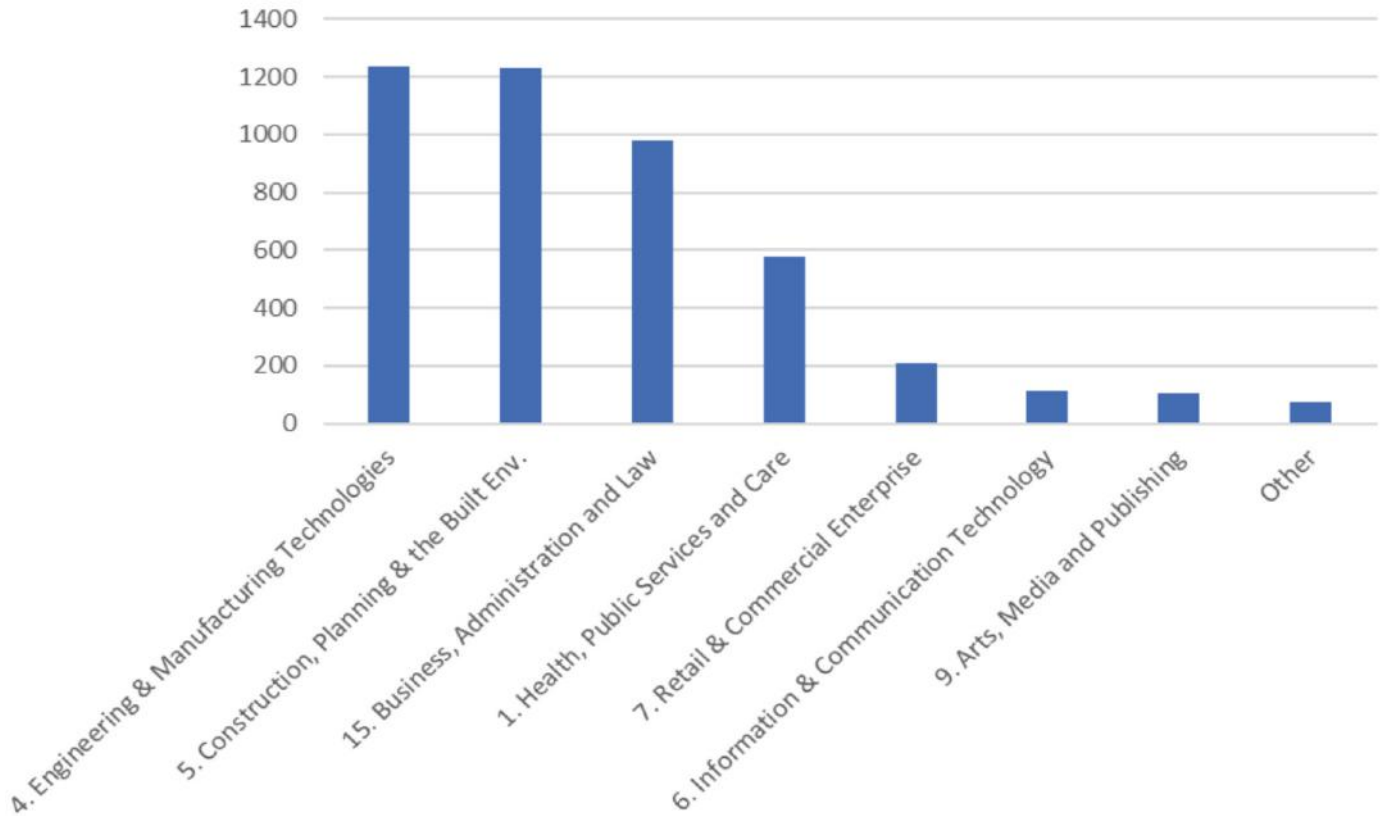
Source: MIDES ILR 2022/23 (R14)

Adults EFSA Funded and Loans - Subject

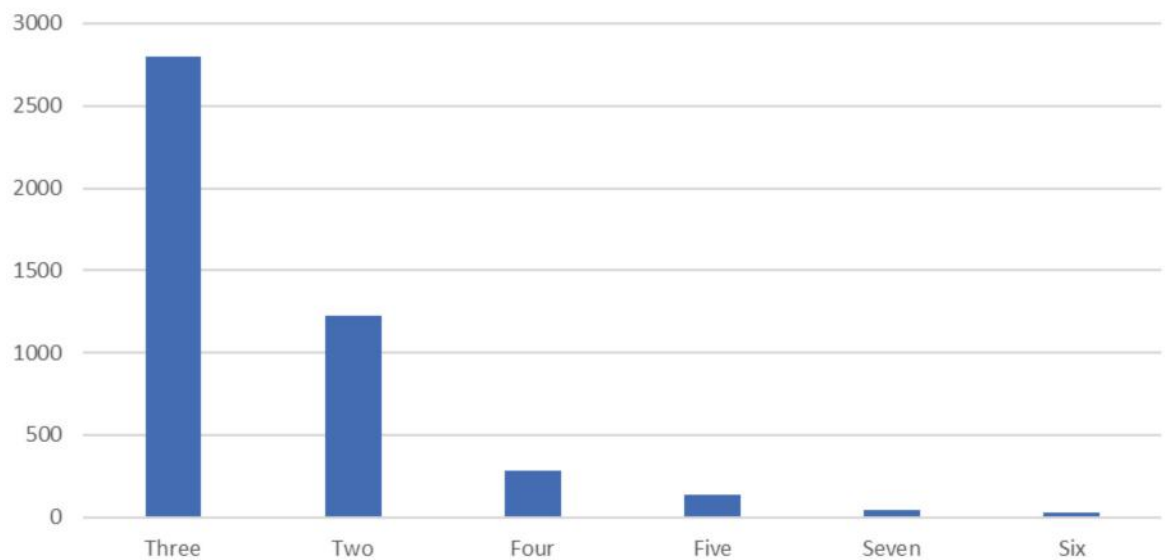
Subject Area	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% Change 20/21 - 22/23	2023/24 (Part Year)
Health, Nursing and Social Care	2,710	2,630	2,020	-26%	970
Public Services	90	170	160	85%	90
Child Development and Well Being	110	80	150	46%	160
Science and Mathematics	80	70	40	-46%	40
Engineering	690	970	1,220	76%	620
Motor Vehicle, and Transportation	220	350	410	93%	230
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	490	670	890	82%	530
Information and Communication Technology	200	170	260	26%	170
Retailing, Wholesaling, Warehousing & Distrib.	360	330	590	64%	110
Hair and Beauty	720	590	680	-5%	350
Hospitality and Catering	130	160	170	31%	130
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	60	50	50	-30%	80
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	<5	<5	0	-	<5
Performing Arts	20	10	<5	-	10
Media and Communication	20	20	50	225%	50
Art and Design	30	30	70	119%	30
Humanities, Langs, Social Sciences & General Ed.	390	370	350	-11%	290
Preparation for Life and Work	1,870	2,350	2,140	14%	1,780
Business, Administration and Law	710	610	470	-34%	330
GCSE English	140	80	90	-39%	70
Basic Skills English	640	550	700	9%	490
GCSE Maths	210	160	150	-27%	120
Basic Skills Maths	510	540	640	26%	420
ESOL	500	820	1,140	130%	990

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Learners by Sector

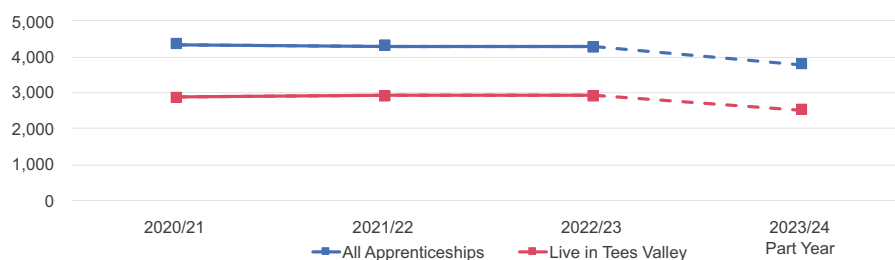


Apprenticeship Learners by Level



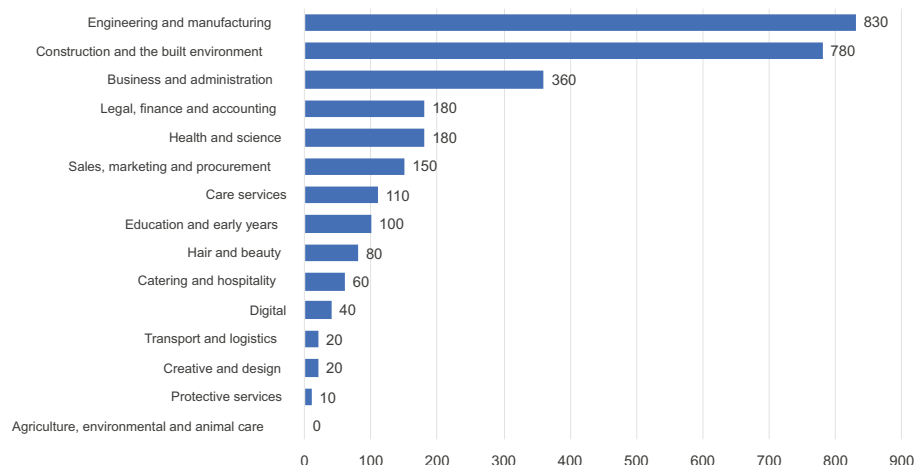
Apprenticeships - Tees Valley

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% Change 20/21 - 22/23	2023/24 (Part Year)
Apprenticeships at Tees Valley Colleges	4,340	4,300	4,270	-2%	3,790
Of which Live in Tees Valley	2,870	2,910	2,920	2%	2,520
% live in Tees Valley	66%	68%	68%	-	66%



Source: MiDES ILR 2020/21 to 2022/23 (R14) & 2023/24 (R06)

Apprenticeships - Technical Routes 22/23



Source: MiDES ILR 2022/23 (R14)

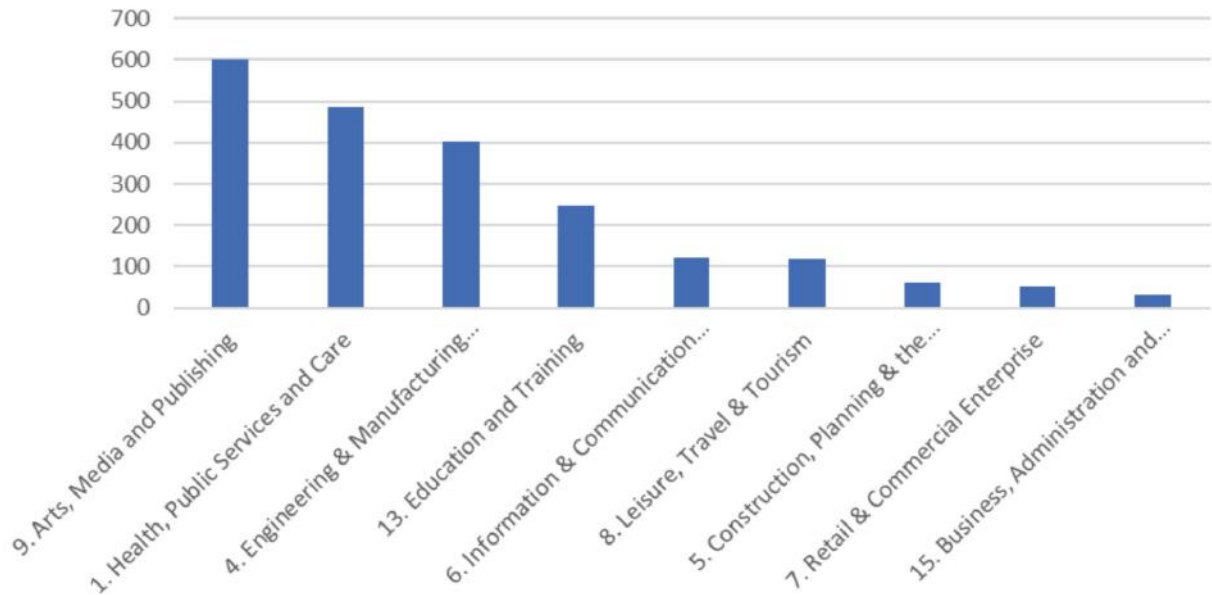
Apprenticeships

Technical Route	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% Change 20/21 - 22/23	2023/24 (Part Year)
Agriculture, environmental and animal care	0	0	0	-	0
Business and administration	480	380	360	-26%	310
Care services	150	130	110	-26%	70
Catering and hospitality	70	60	60	-17%	30
Education and early years	130	110	100	-20%	80
Construction and the built environment	570	730	780	37%	760
Creative and design	10	20	20	113%	20
Digital	50	40	40	-10%	30
Engineering and manufacturing	790	810	830	5%	760
Hair and beauty	110	100	80	-24%	60
Health and science	130	140	180	42%	120
Legal, finance and accounting	220	170	180	-16%	170
Protective services	<5	10	10	-	10
Sales, marketing and procurement	150	180	150	5%	90
Transport and logistics	30	20	20	-46%	<5

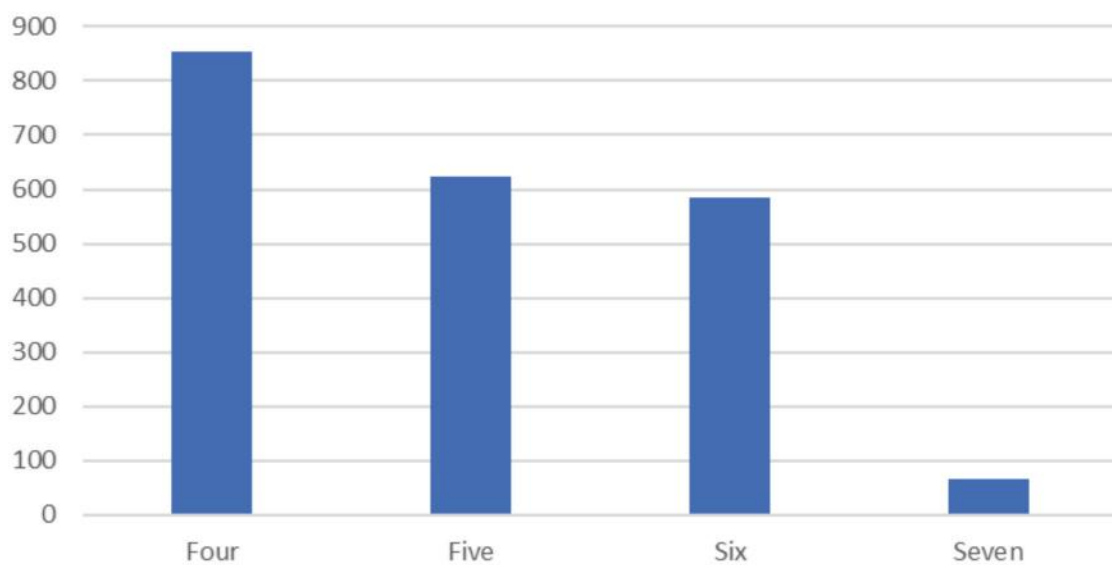
Source: MiDES ILR 2020/21 to 2022/23 (R14) & 2023/24 (R06)

Higher Education

Higher Education Learners by Sector

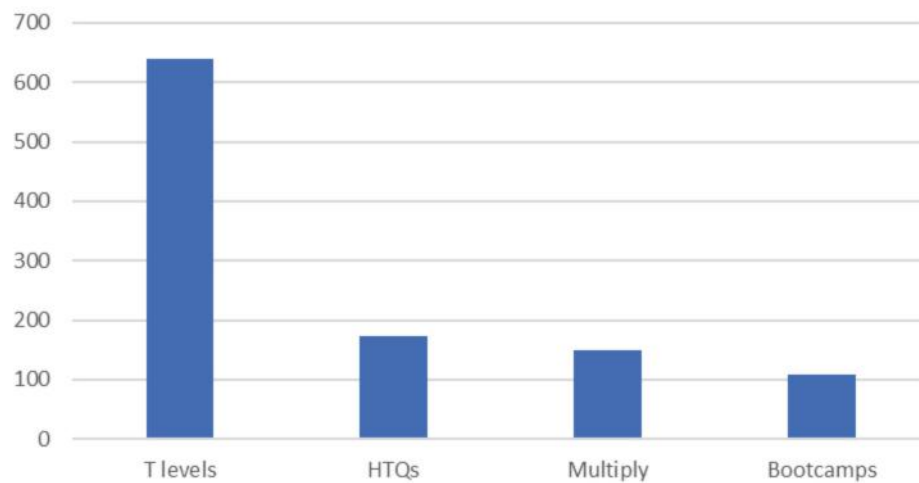


Higher Education Learners by Level



Government Priorities

Learner Enrolments by Government Priorities



Summary Statement

The college operates as part of a collaboration called FE+, which has been in place for around thirty years, and which includes all 5 of the Tees Valley GFE and specialist colleges. This collaboration meets at least monthly, rotating the position of Chair and related positions such as those offered to FE+ on the Mayoral Combined Authority skills committees. FE+ partners have collaborated on a range of ventures including successfully delivering two skills development funds (SDF) in local priority areas, supporting the development and implementation of the Tees Valley LSIP through the local skills improvement fund, working closely with inward investors and advising on skills policy with local and national stakeholders.

During Spring 2024, all five colleges mapped our provision against local labour market needs and carried out a full local curriculum review including an independently facilitated workshop involving members of all college corporations. Data presented at the review and the subsequent analysis highlight that the colleges' curriculum offer and outcomes for learners support the Tees Valley economy especially in the engineering/manufacturing, construction and healthcare sectors.

The review identified a number of areas that all Colleges can work on to enhance our response to local employer needs as follows:

FE+ agreed actions to work on
Develop further employability skills in our young people while strengthening their confidence and resilience.
Improve digital skills of all of our students
Minimise impact of qualifications reform on level 3 numbers
Increase the numbers training in logistics, digital and professional skills

During the discussion, the College Principals and Chairs also discussed some risks / opportunities to successful local delivery including:

- Teacher pay and therefore recruitment / retention, particularly in skills shortage areas such as construction, engineering and digital
- Broader incentives for employers to invest in their workforce and in particular in apprenticeships for young people
- The flexibilities afforded by devolution and how these can be targeted to simplify second chance retraining for adults at all levels
- The successful roll out of T Levels and the associated defunding of alternative Level 3 qualifications

