



Impact Report 2021/2022








Skills &
Education
Group

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This report is musically interactive! Many of the titles correspond with songs, so whenever you see a    you can click it to listen to the song on YouTube, Spotify or iTunes.

Or scan here for the full Spotify playlist:



Girl on Fire



Meet Mamello Atisa

I'm an optimist.
I have had to be.

As an adult learner, I've faced challenges. Despite having had a wide variety of work and learning experiences—including training as a counsellor, working as a teacher in media and serving as a trainer at Citizens Advice—learning as an adult can feel like starting over. And that's not always easy.

I've also had to overcome significant barriers in my career. For years, I battled a long-term illness and was signed off work for six months as a result. Shortly after returning to work, I was made redundant, which caused real financial difficulties.

But, in the last few years especially, I realised that I am more resilient than I thought.

When COVID-19 struck, I saw the lockdowns as an opportunity to learn new skills, so I looked for courses to take during this time. Passionate about the fashion industry, I restarted my studies with a Level 1 Patterns qualification and then a Level 2 in Stitching qualifications, working long hours and reading up on fashion. Completing each course built my confidence and laid a foundation for me to go further.

To support my studies, I applied for a £1,000 Learner Grant from the Skills and Education Group Foundation.

At a time when I was wilting with questions and doubts, receiving the grant was a huge vote of confidence.

Financially speaking, it helped me to purchase materials and computer software to help improve my skills, and it helped to cover costs for workshops and seminars to continue to develop my knowledge.

I'm now doing a Level 2 Patterns qualification, and I plan to keep participating in workshops to consolidate my skills and learn new techniques to transform clothing into something new. In the long term, it's my dream to create my own fashion collection, upcycling garments and creating accessories that complement our everyday lives.

I have a passion for sustainable and socially engaged fashion, and I believe that it has the ability to communicate about social issues. I think most people find expression through the clothes they wear, and clothing is a universal language. It's also something that has helped me to overcome cultural, social and economic barriers.

I also have a passion for education, and it has opened doors to creating safety and advancing in life. When I think about my commitment to study, two things stand out: how it contributes to a better life and the opportunities it provides to look after myself and support my family, if the need were to arise.

I think I will never tire of learning. I really love it. In 2022, I spoke at the Skills and Education Group Conference in May 2022, and was a finalist in the Learner of the Year category at the FAB Awards 2022 hosted by the Federation of Awarding Bodies.

For me, education is the gift of finding the tools to deal with change. I'm very grateful for the opportunities and hope they continue to spur me to keep moving forward and achieving more than I can imagine!

– Mamello Atisa, an adult learner at Fashion Enter, and a Skills and Education Group Foundation Learner Grant recipient

Let's Go Further

I'm an older learner: get used to it!



PODCAST:
Learn more about Mamello's journey.

[LISTEN](#)



VIDEO:
Watch an interview from our 2022 Conference.

[WATCH](#)

🎥 🎧 🎵 (Shine Bright Like) Diamonds



Meet Atholl Stott

Chair of Trustees,
Skills and Education Group

Atholl has been our Chair of Trustees since 2017 and plays a key role in ensuring that our services are tailored to meet the specific priorities, values and expectations of everyone we support.

A former Chair of RNN Group and a National Leader of the Governance for the Association of Colleges (AoC), Atholl has many years of experience in the further education sector. He also serves as the Chief Executive of Action Housing & Support, a charity that acts as a “social landlord” by providing accommodation and support to vulnerable individuals.

WELCOME TO OUR 2021/22 IMPACT REPORT

Each year, Skills and Education Group produces this report to showcase our impact on further education organisations, staff and learners. I am proud to be Chair of an organisation that helps to transform so many lives through education.

The past academic year was memorable for Skills and Education Group in so many ways. In 2022, we celebrated our Double Emerald Jubilee, marking 110 years since the roots of the organisation began with the formation of the East Midland Educational Union in 1912. In May 2022, we recognised this anniversary at our annual conference, our first after two years away due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A great event, we welcomed over 250 people from the world of further education, who came together to celebrate the successes of the sector. The day featured an inspiring keynote address from Jake and Hannah Graf MBE, panel sessions discussing social mobility and adult education, and training seminars on a variety of topics. We were also joined by other sector leaders and key

“ We are delighted to be working with the Skills and Education Group on a partnership to raise the bar and widen the gate for young people of all backgrounds. ”

– Dr Neil Bentley-Gockmann OBE, Chief Executive of WorldSkills UK

stakeholders. It was great to see so many familiar faces in person again, and was a fitting celebration of 110 years of success.

It was a successful academic year in other ways too. The activities of our charitable Foundation expanded considerably to help us champion the efforts of our members to support social mobility. With our Action Research Grants, we launched new action-research projects, and our Resource and Facilities Grants now provide our members with new ways to access funding for their organisation’s activities. In addition, our Learner Grants continued to be an important source of support for learners at our member organisations, providing them with the financial assistance needed to help them complete their studies, overcome social barriers and reach their potential. Overall, we awarded 149 Learner Grants, totalling over £82,000 of funding. I am so proud that we were able to support this many learners, and I would like to thank everyone who made learners aware of our Foundation and helped them with their applications.

The other organisations that are part of our wider Group also continued to expand and develop. We grew the range of qualifications and assessments we offer, allowing us to support more and more learners across a range of fields and sectors. In this report, you will find more detail about the many services we offer and how they make a positive impact on the lives of so many individuals. Of course,

facts and figures cannot evidence impact on their own—it’s the human stories that really show this, and you will find plenty of these throughout the report.

2021/22 also saw us launch one of our most exciting new ventures of the last few years, the Let’s Go Further podcast, which shines a spotlight on education and the role it plays in transforming lives. Each episode features guests from the world of education and beyond, and delves into their journeys, achievements and why education matters to them. In this report, you will find links to the episodes so you can listen for yourself—I assure you, it is well worth it!

In addition to the podcast, this year’s report features many other interactive elements, including videos and songs. I hope you enjoy finding out more about the work we do and the impact we make. Finally, I’d like to heartily thank each and every one of our staff, stakeholders and customers for their commitment to and action in furthering skills and education. Without you, we wouldn’t be the success we are today.

Best wishes,

Atholl Stott
Chair of Trustees



So Here We Are

EVERYONE DESERVES TO RIDE HIGH
AND WITH FLYING COLOURS...

Skills and Education Group is improving the lives of individuals by championing education and skills-oriented organisations, providers and learners. Success should be for everybody, so here’s how we roll...



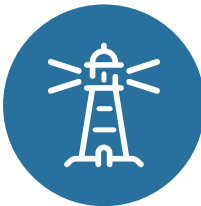
In good company:

We build lasting strategic partnerships with our membership, creating opportunities in the wider education and skills sector that support workforce development.



Arm in arm:

Through high-quality services centred on collaboration, responsiveness and diversity, we support all learners in achieving their full potential, no matter what their age, background or ability.



By our lights:

We’re guided by ethics, professionalism, teamwork and a drive to achieve educational, economic and social advancement for all.

Together, our qualifications; funding opportunities; professional development programmes and initiatives in support of teaching, learning and assessment; and governance make real change in people’s lives locally, nationally and internationally.

We're much more than a brand. We're a system for success.

All for One

For us, collaborative efforts build lasting success. Together, the organisations in the Skills and Education Group family take care of each other and learners and providers just like, well ... family.



An access validating agency with a strong social purpose to recognise achievement, particularly for those who have benefited least from their previous educational experiences, Skills and Education Group Access supports the needs of learners, Centres, businesses and communities by enabling progression into higher education.

[GO TO SITE](#)



Providing high-quality support and services to the educational sector and serving as an end-point assessment organisation, Skills and Education Group Awards offers qualifications and assessments regulated by CCEA, Ofqual and Qualifications Wales, along with a range of non-regulated provision.

[GO TO SITE](#)



An awarding and end-point assessment organisation of choice for the hospitality industry, BIIAB offers regulated qualifications and assessments to advance skills, education and career opportunities in multiple sectors, including health and social care, and more.

[GO TO SITE](#)



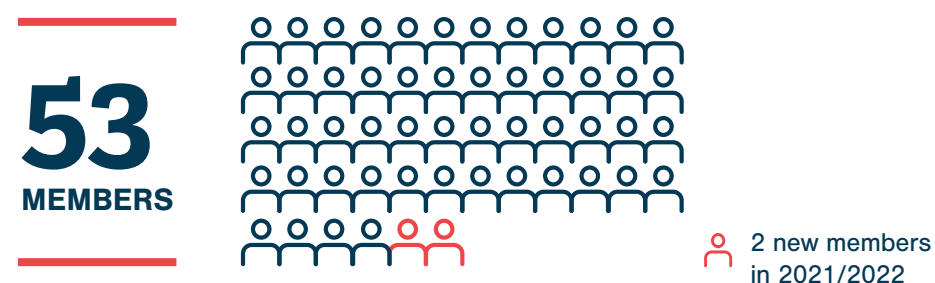
With deep knowledge and experience working within the awarding sector, the Quality License Scheme (QLS) helps organisations develop high-quality courses and/or training programmes for the non-regulated market.

[GO TO SITE](#)

Let's Stay Together

We continue to offer our member organisations high-quality services, such as professional development, networks and conferences which help support and develop their workforces. Members also have indirect access to our range of national awarding services, which help their learners to cultivate the relevant skills for learning, employment and life.

In 2021/22, we had 53 members across four membership levels.



To find out more about the different levels of membership available at Skills and Education Group, visit: skillsandeducationgroup.co.uk/membership

Our members are...



Colleges



Charities and/or social enterprises delivering vocational training

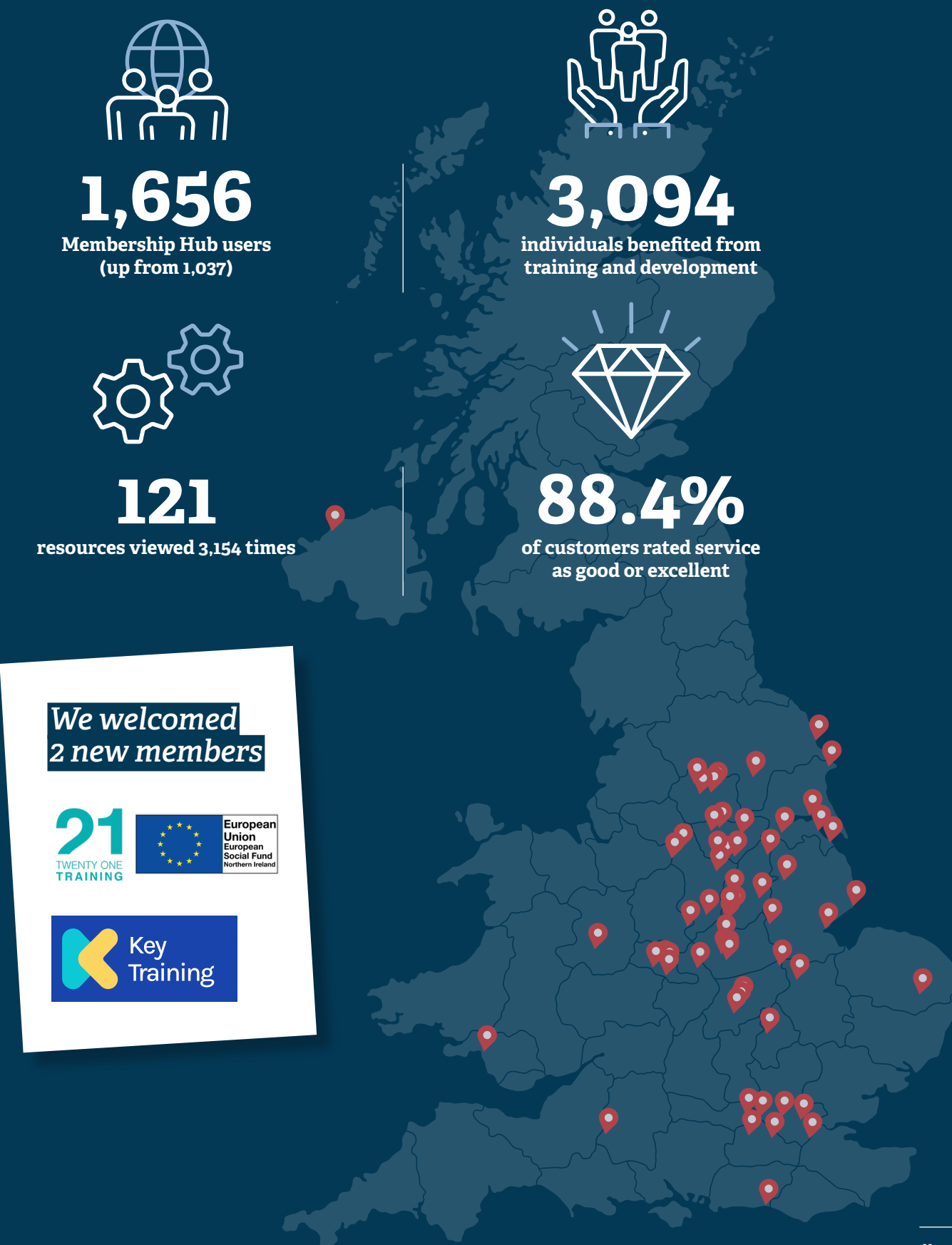


Independent training providers



Local adult education services

Together, we serve diverse UK communities by supporting learners, education practitioners and employers.



Can't Take My Eyes Off of You

We're feeling great about our services, but don't take it from us. See what some of our members are saying.



LEICESTER ADULT LEARNING [SILVER MEMBER]

“Excellent, prompt response and support from Skills and Education Group staff whenever we have queries or questions to raise; very much appreciated.”

WYLP ●●●

West Yorkshire Learning Providers

WEST YORKSHIRE LEARNING PROVIDERS [BRONZE MEMBER]

“Our partnership with Skills and Education Group will provide valuable contributions to our continuing professional development and help to enhance quality improvements for our providers.”



Work Experience Opens Doors to Dream Job for DCG Student

After impressing managers during his 14-week work experience placement with Places Leisure, Derby College (DCG) Sport student Ben Cudworth, age 17, has secured a part-time job in the fitness centre at Ripley Leisure Centre.

A former pupil at Belper School, Ben is on the Level Three Fitness Instructor study programme at Broomfield Hall, which has a strong focus on work experience. “The College put me in touch with Places for People and I started my placement last November, working every Wednesday. I love being in the gym environment, and all the staff have been great showing me the ropes,” he says.

Now, his hard work, skills and positive attitude have really paid off. Senior Fitness Instructor Oliver Simpson says, “We could see from the outset just how enthusiastic Ben was, his willingness to do all different aspects of the job and how well he interacted with the members.

“...Although we offer a lot of work experience placements, we have never had anyone who has then been offered casual hours whilst still at college, which shows Ben's calibre.”

For Ben, this is just a beginning, as he has his eyes set on a future career in fitness: “I hope it will lead to a permanent position when I finish college this summer so that I can work here and gain further qualifications. Doing the college course has opened the door to getting my dream job.”

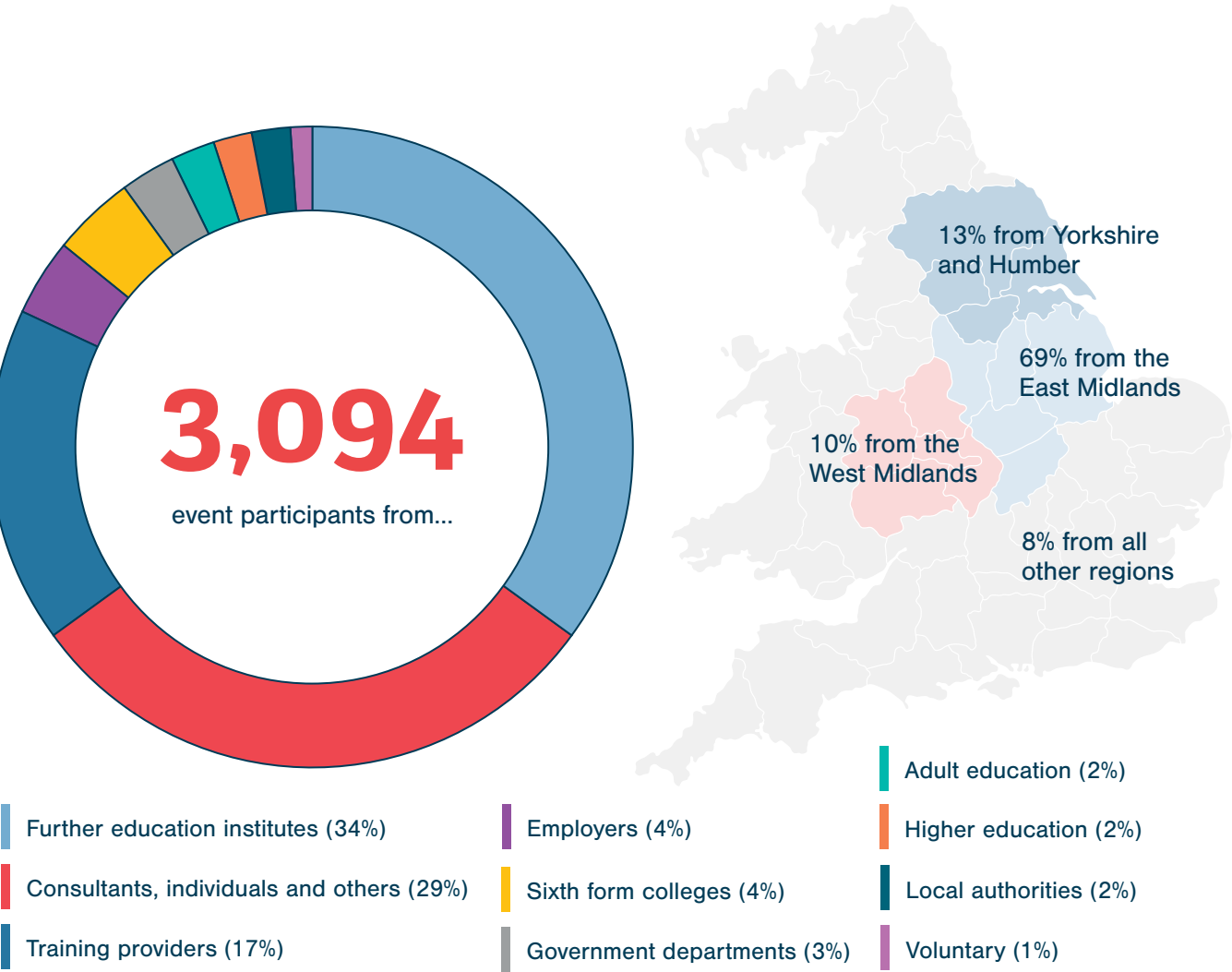
🎥🎧🎵 Mind Power

Providing our members with high-quality services such as professional development, networks and conferences which aim to help support and develop their workforce, everything we do is designed to help our sector and to enable our members to enhance the lives of young people and adults.

OUR EVENTS MET OUR MEMBERS' NEEDS

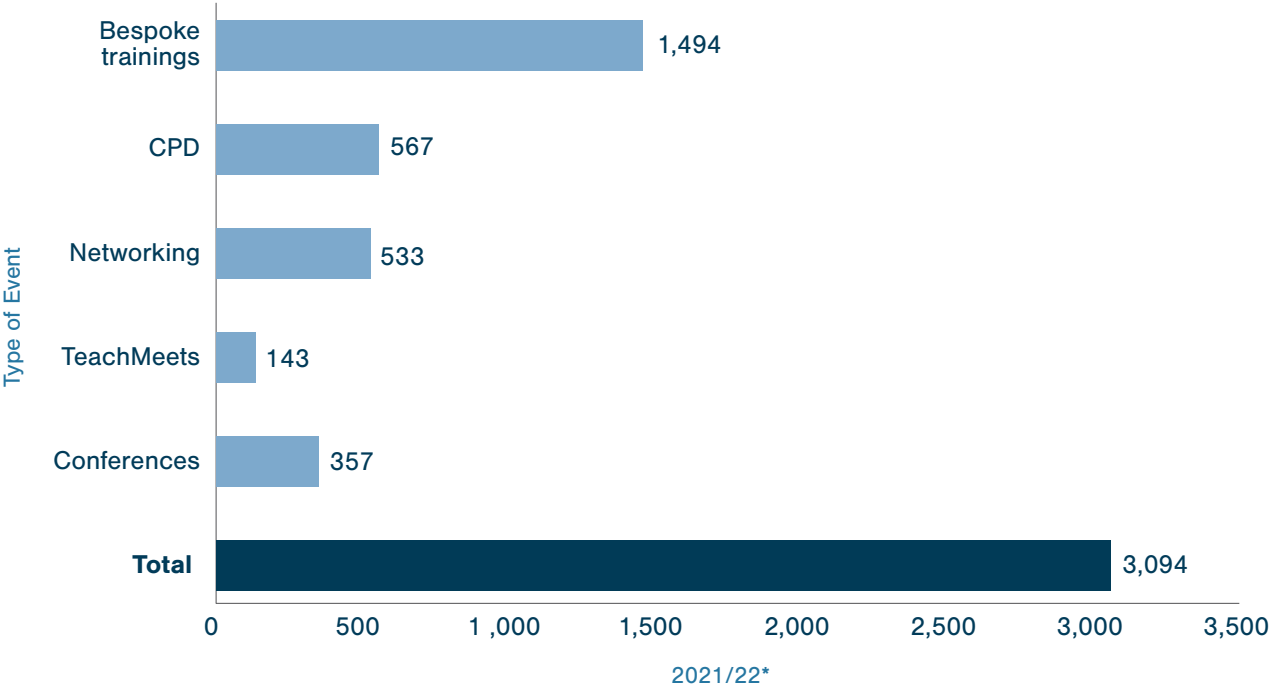
Providing a varied offering, our events were delivered by industry professionals, online, in person and through blended sessions. Despite the continued impact of COVID-19 and the corresponding logistical and operational challenges (e.g. blended delivery), our customers reported success, including finding sessions entertaining and with opportunities for all to participate.

We also saw a significant increase in the number of providers seeking support through our bespoke training activities. With a wide range of opportunities on offer, we received positive feedback for our Emerging Leaders group, and five additional cohorts were arranged for 2022/23.



57

Professional Development events, CPD and Bespoke Training sessions took place, with attendance as follows:



*74% of attendance at our training and events was by member organisations.

“ It was a very informative session, with useful strategies that I can use to develop learners’ reflective language. ”

– CPD participant



**Celebrating
110 years
of impact**

WE CELEBRATED OUR DOUBLE EMERALD JUBILEE

After two years away, our annual conference returned in May 2022. Following two challenging years for the education sector, this eagerly anticipated event was a chance for those working in further education to come together and celebrate our successes. It didn't disappoint. Over 250 people attended the event, which featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, training seminars, an exhibition and a celebratory anniversary dinner.

The conference also marked our history of supporting the further education and skills sector, dating back to 1912—the year the Titanic sank, the Royal Flying Corps (forerunner of the Royal Air Force) was established, the character Tarzan first appeared and Alan Turing was born.

In the 110 years since the foundations for Skills and Education Group were being built, our organisation has existed in various guises and under different names, but one thing has remained constant: our aim to advance skills and education to improve the lives of individuals, regardless of their background.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR HISTORY](#)

“We plant seeds in a garden we'll never see.”

– Debra Gray, Principal and Chief Executive, Hull College Group



I Just Wanna Shine

The Skills and Education Group Foundation champions and accelerates social mobility, providing grants to support learners and education providers. We also provide financial aid and support in kind to like-minded charities, and promote the further education and skills sector through research development and public affairs.

In 2021/22, the Foundation supported 50% more learners than we anticipated, directly funding 149 individuals with a total of £82,405. Through our Action Research Grants, we empowered 20 staff members at five member organisations, providing a total of £15,000 in funding that directly engaged 93 learners and more than 20 stakeholder organisations, including local businesses, government and schools. We have awarded nine Resource and Facilities Grants to Skills and Education Group members, totalling £13,000 and benefiting 102 staff and 1,704 learners. These grants support a mix of vocational, general educational, SEND, and welfare and well-being goals across our membership.

Through our **Learner Grants**, **Action Research Grants**, and **Resource and Facilities Grants**, we have *given* a total of **£112,405** over 2021/22.

A Learner Grant Story

Winner: Rising Above Adversity with Education

As a young person with an elite swimming background, including competing for Team Great Britain as a paralympian swimmer, Janice Tillett dreamed of becoming a swimming teacher. However, she lives with a genetic sight-limiting condition, which means that as a young adult her sight deteriorated to where she was registered blind. Combined with limited hearing and additional disabilities, this meant Janice was unable to fulfil this particular teaching dream.

Still determined to find a way to teach exercise, Janice identified the Level 2 Sit and Stay Fit Chair-Based Teaching Certificate at St Crispin’s Community Centre in Northampton—a movement-to-music-based course that focuses on keeping people active whilst living with mobility issues and as they age. However, a significant challenge to participation was access to transport. With her local community transport service prioritising group shopping trips over “single” trips, Janice has to rely on taxis, which are not cost effective.

To overcome this barrier, Janice applied for and received a Foundation Learner Grant. It made it possible for her to attend the course in person, where she realised she could succeed despite her lack of sight, her hearing loss, and the chronic pain with which she lives.

Janice now plans to build on her teaching skills and practice; role-model how inclusive learning can support every learner to achieve their personal goals; and source opportunities where she can co-teach chair-based exercise to people who have similar needs to her own. This will enable her to use her lived experience to inspire others to follow their aspirations. As Janice says, “We shouldn’t be in a world where we are told ‘no’—if anyone has the capability and reasonable adjustments are made, [opportunity] should be made possible for all.”

Our Learner Grants

Helping individuals to overcome social barriers and advance their skills and education, these grants are for applicants who demonstrate a commitment and willingness to achieve. The Learner Grants programme was strongly administered and received, delivering to 50% more students than we anticipated, and supporting learners with course costs, childcare, travel and living expenses, health, and more.

Our applicants

AGE:

65%

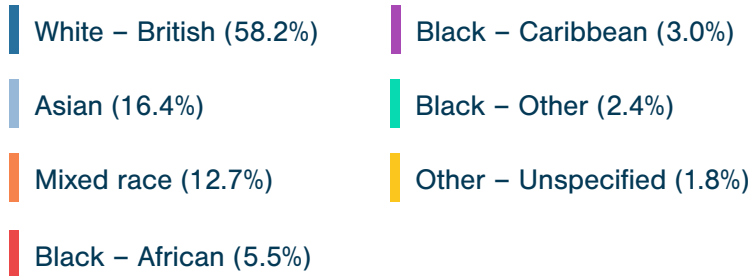
were aged 16 to 25

35%

were aged 26 to 35

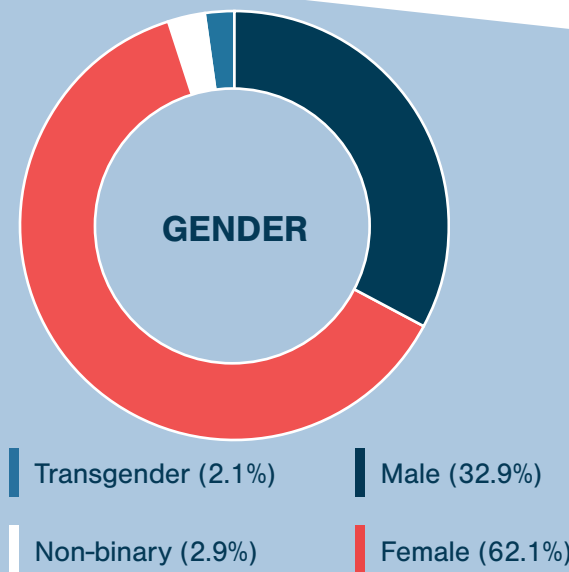
80%

were recent school leavers or adults returning to education at an early career stage



55% were *non-white*
(vs. 45% of all further education students*)

*as reported by the Association of Colleges AOC for 2021/22



62.1% were *female*
(vs. 40% of all further education students*)
*as reported by the Association of Colleges AOC for 2021/22

5% of successful applicants identified as *non-binary and trans*
(vs. 0.5% of the UK population as a whole**)
*as reported by the Association of Colleges AOC for 2021/22
**Census 2021

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

73%

studying on an Entry Level, Level 1 to 3 or Access to HE course (of successful applicants).

With relatively low skills training or qualification levels, these applicants were most in need of upward social mobility.

MOTIVATED BY:

Financial pressures:
48.5%
of applicants

Pursuing job prospects/future qualifications:
44.2%
of applicants

Educational goals:
36%
of applicants

CHALLENGED BY:

36.8%
of applicants responded "circumstances affecting mental health"

26.3%
of applicants responded "physical health issue or a long-standing illness"

WHAT WE FUNDED

334
applicants to our Learner Grant programme

149
approved grants

£82,405
in support

The **top three** uses* for *Learner Grants* were:

Travel costs
67.8%
of all awarded grants

Cost of living
50.3%
of all awarded grants

Laptops or phones to help with studies
40.3%
of all awarded grants

*In some cases, grants were used for more than one purpose; hence, the sum of the three figures exceeds 100%.

Introducing our Action Research Grants

In March of 2022, we opened Staff-Led Action Research Project Grant applications to our member organisations, offering £3,000 to any staff teams that identified a barrier to the development of their learners and proposed a way of working to address it. We were not let down by the range and quality of applications.

The opportunity to carry out action research projects was so well received by our members, and these projects have provided the beginnings of strong and interesting work that we are extending this year and moving into our continuing professional development calendar.

£15,000

given to 5 member organisations (£3,000 each)

20

staff members empowered to identify challenges in their organisation or community and develop their own responses

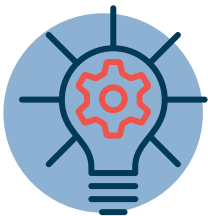
93

learners engaged directly for their opinions and ideas on the issues that affect them and their education

20+

stakeholder organisations offering insights (i.e. businesses, local government and schools)

PROJECTS FUNDED



Improving learning for special educational needs or disability (SEND) students (Bedford College Group)



Exploring the challenges and benefits of apprenticeships in rural settings (Buxton & Leek College)



Resources and training videos to help develop peer-to-peer assessment skills and improve learner engagement in feedback (Derby College)



A new web platform to support learners transitioning from school or NEET (not engaged in education, employment or training) circumstances to college (Doncaster College)



An online maths course and teaching toolkit for learners transitioning from further education to higher education (University Centre Peterborough)



Courage to Change: Doncaster College’s Transition Toolkit

Transition points can be challenging for students, and the transition from school to college is a significant one. For some it represents a “fresh start” after school; however, with this fresh start come challenges in terms of receiving timely support when they join. It can be an especially difficult time for those not in education, employment or training.

Supported by an Action Research Grant from the Skills and Education Group Foundation, staff at Doncaster College created an online Transition Toolkit to give learners all the information they need to make a strong start at college. This accessible, multimodal transition toolkit supports new students prior to their first day and

throughout their early weeks of study, with the goal of a more positive student experience and a lower workload burden for staff.

Launched in the 2021/22 academic year, our Staff-Led Action Research Project Grants are designed to contribute to projects that offer new approaches to widening participation and increasing social inclusion. We’re proud to have supported staff at Doncaster College in developing this game-changing toolkit.

[CHECK OUT THE TOOLKIT](#)

Our New Resource and Facilities Grants

Introduced in the 2021/22 academic year, these grants of up to £2,000 each can be used to fund projects with clear physical outcomes, or can be used to renew or improve resources or facilities at member organisations.

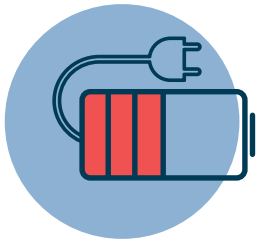
We know that *where* students learn makes a huge difference to *how* they learn. Education providers strive to support the learner experience and that of educators in delivering high-quality teaching, and they can make a little help go a long way. By identifying independent, stand-alone funding opportunities with clear physical outcomes like equipment and spaces, recipients have used these grants to provide a clear and sustainable impact for learners and staff.

£13,000 awarded across **9** Skills and Education Group members

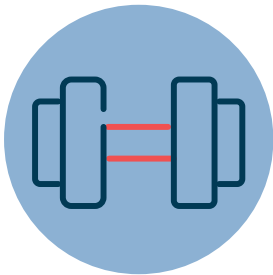
102 staff and **1,704** learners supported

EQUIPMENT FUNDED

Our Resource and Facilities Grants have supported a good mix of vocational, educational, SEND and overall well-being goals across our membership. Recent purchases include:



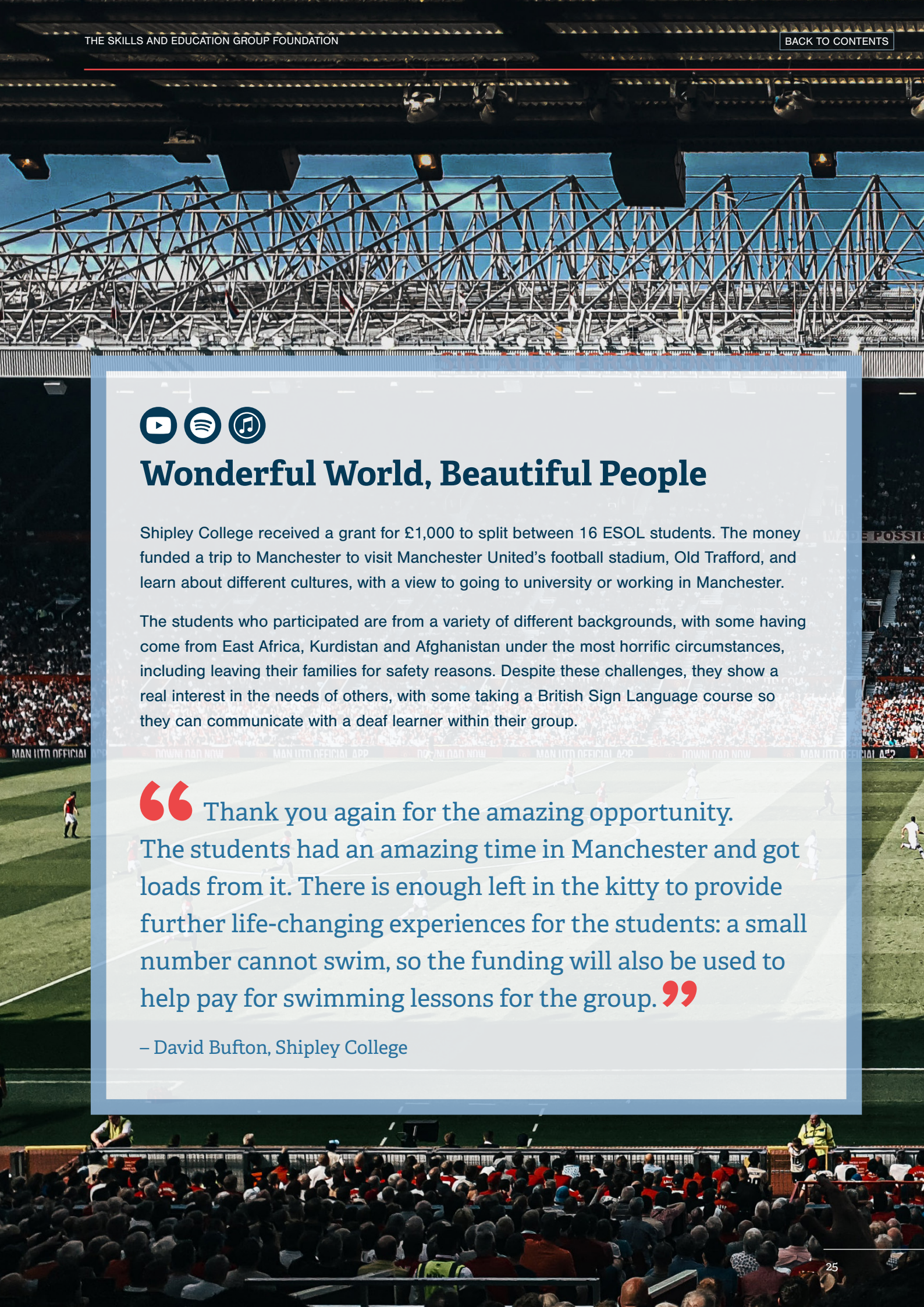
Chromebook charging cabinets at Shipley College



Functional fitness gym equipment for trainee public services at Leeds City College



Musical instruments for SEND learners at Leicester College



Wonderful World, Beautiful People

Shipley College received a grant for £1,000 to split between 16 ESOL students. The money funded a trip to Manchester to visit Manchester United’s football stadium, Old Trafford, and learn about different cultures, with a view to going to university or working in Manchester.

The students who participated are from a variety of different backgrounds, with some having come from East Africa, Kurdistan and Afghanistan under the most horrific circumstances, including leaving their families for safety reasons. Despite these challenges, they show a real interest in the needs of others, with some taking a British Sign Language course so they can communicate with a deaf learner within their group.

“ Thank you again for the amazing opportunity. The students had an amazing time in Manchester and got loads from it. There is enough left in the kitty to provide further life-changing experiences for the students: a small number cannot swim, so the funding will also be used to help pay for swimming lessons for the group.”

– David Bufton, Shipley College

Skills & Education Group Access

An access validating agency with a strong social purpose to recognise achievement, particularly for those who have benefited least from their previous educational experiences, Skills and Education Group Access supports the needs of learners, Centres, businesses and communities by enabling progression into higher education.

Access



Meet Yultan Mellor

Chair of Skills and Education Group Access

Yultan has worked in further education since 1992, and was Vice-Principal setting curriculum vision and strategy for nine of them. Until recently the Principal and Chief Executive of Northern College, she has an absolute passion for delivering outstanding student experiences and excellent outcomes for young people and adults that choose further education, recognising the positive economic and social impact in the wider community.

As an experienced education professional, her role is to continue the proud and distinguished history of providing education for those adults who may have previously been disengaged or disadvantaged, and for activists that work in these communities.

For Yultan, widening participation is a key driver. She is committed to improving progression from community learning through further education and into higher level provision, raising and meeting the aspirations of students, and, wherever appropriate, ensuring that students gain the necessary skills and competencies to succeed within the local labour market.

A MESSAGE FROM YULTAN

This past academic year, we launched a number of new Diplomas in Clothing and Textiles Manufacturing, Early Years and Medicine. We also launched new units for our Health Science Professions Diploma, our most popular Access to HE Diploma.

Along with the rest of the Group, we celebrated our 110-year anniversary at the annual conference in May. It was great to hear guest speaker Naima Pinchen, a former Access student at Northern College, whose studies were supported by a grant from the Skills and Education Group Foundation.

Adult education is such a key part of individual growth, social mobility and better communities for us all. We're excited by what we've achieved with our customers, and we're excited to continue to grow our Access to HE offer to serve a broader base of learners.

You Gotta Be (Tough)

Natalie, a former student at Skills and Education Group Access Centre Academy Online Learning, has progressed to the University of Nottingham after overcoming adversity to complete her Access to Higher Education Diploma in Health Science Professions.

By studying at Academy Online Learning (AOLL)—a unique Access Centre that provides online Access to HE Diplomas—Natalie was able to study for her Diploma at home whilst recovering from major hip operations. The AOLL team were pleased to support Natalie, saying, “It is always a bit different with our students, as we don’t see them face to face, but they can have all sorts going on in their personal lives. ... We are always here as a team and take so much pride in student achievements. ... Natalie has overcome quite a few obstacles and has managed to achieve the Diploma with exceptional grades, providing inspiration for others.”

Reflecting on her experience with AOLL, Natalie returns the praise, saying, “I thoroughly enjoyed the course, which has broadened my depth of knowledge and given me the chance to apply for physiotherapy at university. The staff at AOLL are a great team, and I wouldn’t be in my current position without all of their support.”

After completing her Diploma with outstanding grades, Natalie has progressed to studying physiotherapy at the University of Nottingham (a member of the Russell Group), which is not only a top-30 UK university, but also one of the top-10 UK universities for physiotherapy, according to the Complete University Guide.

“Recovering from two major hip operations, this online course was perfect for my situation as it kept me engaged and determined. Without the support from the AOLL staff and this course giving me a second chance, I would not be going to one of the top universities for physiotherapy in the UK. Thank you for this opportunity and for supporting me personally and academically.”

SKILLS AND EDUCATION GROUP ACCESS OFFERED 16 ACCESS TO HE DIPLOMAS ACROSS 7 SECTORS...

Supporting 3,358 Skills and Education Group Access to HE learners.

In 2021/22*:



15

Centres registered students to Skills and Education Group Access to HE Diplomas (the same as 2020/21).



78.1%

(vs. 74% in 2020/21) of students completed their Diploma within a year (some over two years).

*From 1 Sept 2021 to 31 Aug 2022

1,660 Skills and Education Group Access to HE Diplomas were awarded in 2021/22 vs. 1,436 in 2020/21.

2,848

registrations

75.6%

of learners were female (compared to 73.3% nationwide)

40.2%

of learners were ages 20-24

33.7%

of learners came from an area of disadvantage (compared to 26.6% nationwide)

43.4%

of learners had the Some Merits and Some Distinctions grade profile

13.0%

of learners achieved Distinctions for every single graded unit

Most popular Diploma: Health Science Professions

Of the 16 Skills and Education Group Access to HE Diplomas, those most sought after by Centres were:

Health Science Professions



1,655

(1,602 registrations in 2020/21)

Humanities and Social Sciences



304

(348 registrations in 2020/21)

Science



179

(141 registrations in 2020/21)

Art and Design



109

(92 registrations in 2020/21)

Business



94

(77 registrations in 2020/21)



Skills & Education Group Awards

Providing high-quality support and services to the educational sector and serving as an end-point assessment organisation, Skills and Education Group Awards offers qualifications and assessments regulated by CCEA, Ofqual and Qualifications Wales, along with a range of non-regulated provision.





School Days



Meet Gill Clipson MBE

Chair of Trustees for both Skills and Education Group Awards and BIAB; also featured on page [39](#).

Recognised for her services to further education with the award of MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2017, Gill started her career as a school teacher and then moved into further education. She has held a number of senior posts, including Principal and Chief Executive of two colleges, and is currently Chair at Warwickshire College Group.

During her career, Gill has managed two mergers of colleges and spent a period of time at the funding council where she had responsibility for quality assurance in colleges. Most recently Gill was Deputy Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges. Responsible for leading on education and skills policy in relation to further education colleges, Gill worked with a range of key stakeholders, including government officials and the inspectorate. She also provided leadership to a range of support services for colleges.

A MESSAGE FROM GILL

This past academic year, we continued to expand our portfolio, developing a range of new qualifications and assessments, particularly in the patisserie and confectionery, animal care, and fashion and textiles industries. In addition, we developed e-learning to support the delivery of our fabrication and welding qualifications, and introduced XAMS, a new online exams system.

We also continued to raise awareness of our ground-breaking workers' rights qualification, for which a new podcast and video series were created in October 2021. In support of the qualification, we built a close partnership with The Skills Network, which helped us to develop online learning, enabling more individuals to undertake this qualification.

Our partnership also extended to Advanced Secure Technologies, whose blockchain technology helped us to protect the integrity of our qualifications.

On behalf of Skills and Education Group Awards, I'd like to thank all our customers, and the learners who have undertaken a qualification with us. We've made great strides together, and I look forward to continued success in the future.



Power to the Women of the Morning Shift

London-based Fashion Enter, headed by Jenny Holloway, is a social enterprise focusing on ethical and open practices, employing skilled machinists who produce more than 15,000 garments each week. Alongside the factory operation, the [Fashion Technology Academy](#) provides the know-how to teach students everything from pattern cutting to bespoke tailoring as part of Skills and Education Group Awards qualifications.

We're so pleased that the variety of qualifications we offer in Wales, including those delivered by Fashion Enter, are not only supporting learners but also businesses as they strive to create solid jobs and bring quality products to market.

[READ MORE](#)

Total number of *registrations* made: **26,311** (23,406 in 2020/21)


15,950
qualifications awarded

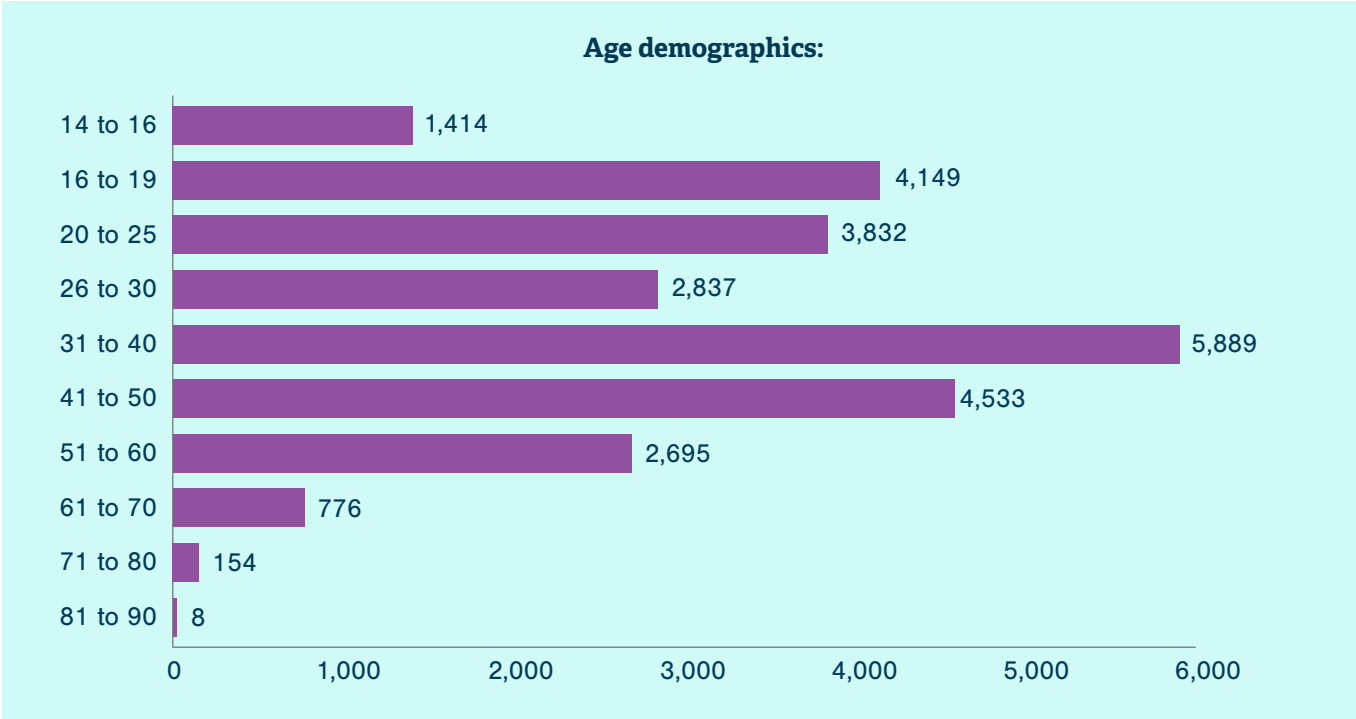

13,674
male learners registered
on qualifications


10,665
female learners registered
on qualifications


1,972
learners with no
specified gender

14
age of the youngest learner

86
age of the eldest learner



In 2021/22, we launched the following new qualifications:



General Patisserie and Confectionery

- › Level 2 Certificate in General Patisserie and Confectionery
- › Level 3 Certificate in General Patisserie and Confectionery



Animal Care

- › Level 2 Award for Animal Nursing Assistants
- › Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants
- › Level 2 Diploma in Work-Based Animal Care and Welfare
- › Level 3 Diploma in Work-Based Animal Care and Welfare



Fashion and Textiles

- › Level 2 NVQ Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn and Textile Products
- › Level 2 Certificate in Fashion and Textiles Production
- › Level 3 Diploma in Textiles Technology
- › Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Textiles Manufacture

This academic year, we introduced XAMS, an online exams system. Whilst this transition required significant effort, it has improved our team’s process for setting up tests and supporting learners. In the past academic year, 6,674 exams were taken on XAMS.

We’re also the only awarding organisation that offers a Level 2 Certificate in Animal Nursing. This extremely popular pre-entry qualification for the Veterinary Nursing Diploma meets the needs of many learners who do not have the correct qualifications or experience to train to become a veterinarian nurse.

END-POINT ASSESSMENTS

When it comes to end-point assessments (EPAs), we’ve continued to make a mark. We’re the lead awarding organisation for Sewing and Textiles and are committed to developing and offering EPAs to support the industry. In fact, this year we developed and launched the Level 3 Fashion Studio Assistant EPA.



“Skills and Education Group Awards staff are so helpful; it’s a pleasure to work with the company. I’m proud to be one of their Centres.”

– Course Director, Brighter Teaching



Come Together

Go to page [33](#) to read about Gill Clipson, Chair of Trustees for BIIAB and Skills and Education Group Awards.

An awarding and end-point assessment organisation of choice for the hospitality industry, BIIAB offers regulated qualifications and assessments to advance skills, education and career opportunities in multiple sectors, including health and social care, and more.



Go to page [33](#) to read about Gill Clipson, Chair of Trustees for BIIAB and Skills and Education Group Awards.

A MESSAGE FROM GILL

This year, we continued reviewing our product portfolio, extending qualifications, including the Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders, and developing new qualifications in our health and social care suite: the Level 3 Diploma in Adult Care and the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Adult Care. We now offer a wider range of qualifications and assessments than ever before. To support our customers, with our BIIAB website launched in November 2021, we made it easier to find the information they need, including the opportunities they can access across Skills and Education Group.

Passionate about apprenticeships, we exhibited at the AELP Conference and Annual Apprenticeship Conference, and celebrated National Apprenticeship Week and Hospitality Apprenticeships Week. We also provided opportunities for individuals to gain BII membership and Professional Licensee status by completing BIIAB licensing qualifications.

The Apprentice

“Apprenticeships help provide young people with genuine industry experience ... a meaningful head start over their peers in ... institution-based learning ... [and] real-world experience and industry contacts while learning how to operate effectively in a business environment.”

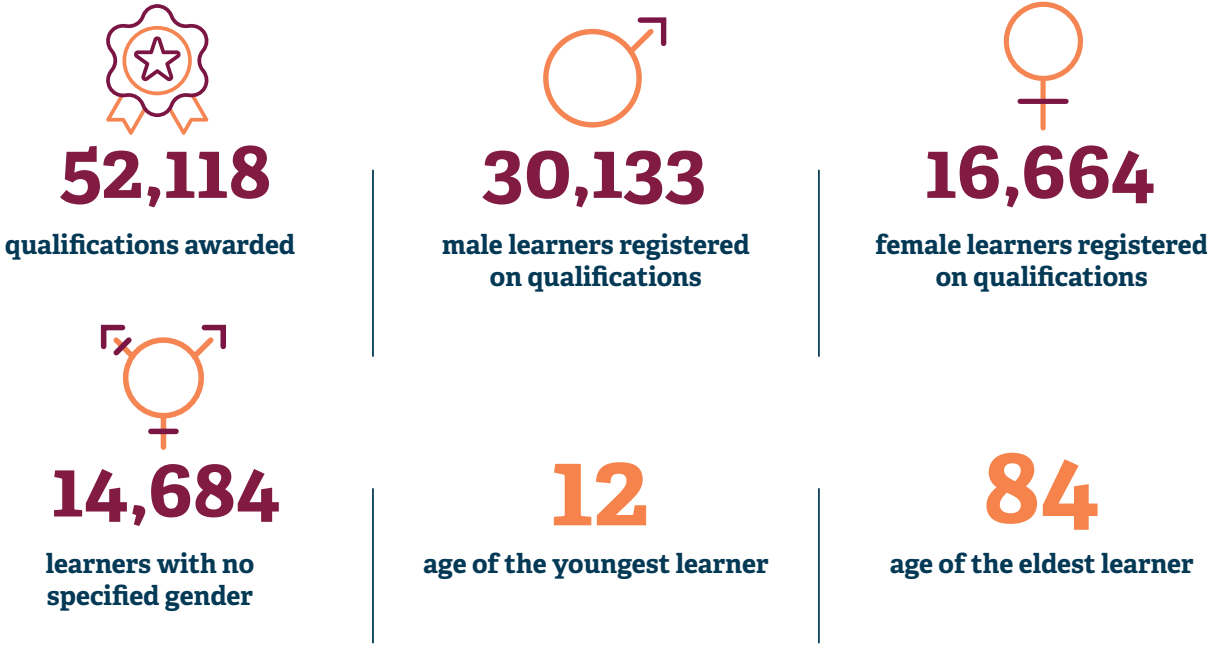
So says Jacob Flanagan, a Tutor at Leeds City College delivering the Level 3 Events Assistant apprenticeship. He has seen firsthand the positive impact apprenticeships have had at his Centre and their contribution to developing a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills. Moreover, attributing the success of apprenticeships to learners themselves, he says, “I’m pleasantly surprised by the insights my learners show on a daily basis. I find them resilient, engaged and optimistic—even through long stretches of working from home during COVID-19, a time especially difficult for young people.”

Jacob also credits our staff: **“ [BIIAB] have provided crystal clear end-point assessment guidance, have responded quickly and effectively to queries, and have made the end-point assessment process simple and efficient for not only the training Centre but the apprentices as well. ”**

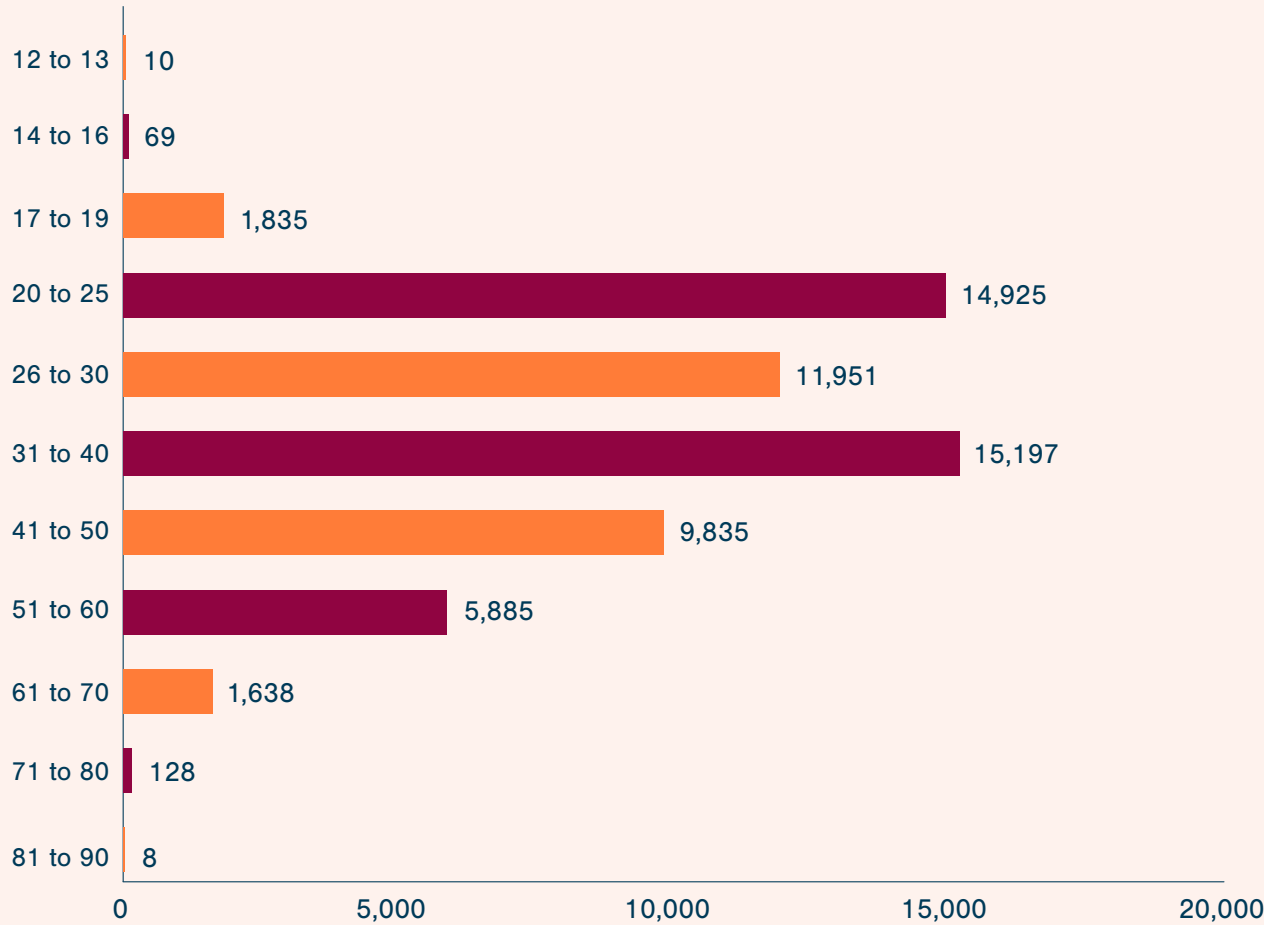
We congratulate everyone on the successes won by their hard work and commitment, and look forward to expanding apprenticeship opportunities in the future.

Total number of *registrations* on *qualifications*: **61,481** (41,075 in 2020/21)

BIIAB helped 227 Centres deliver 257 accredited qualifications in 10 sectors, resulting in:



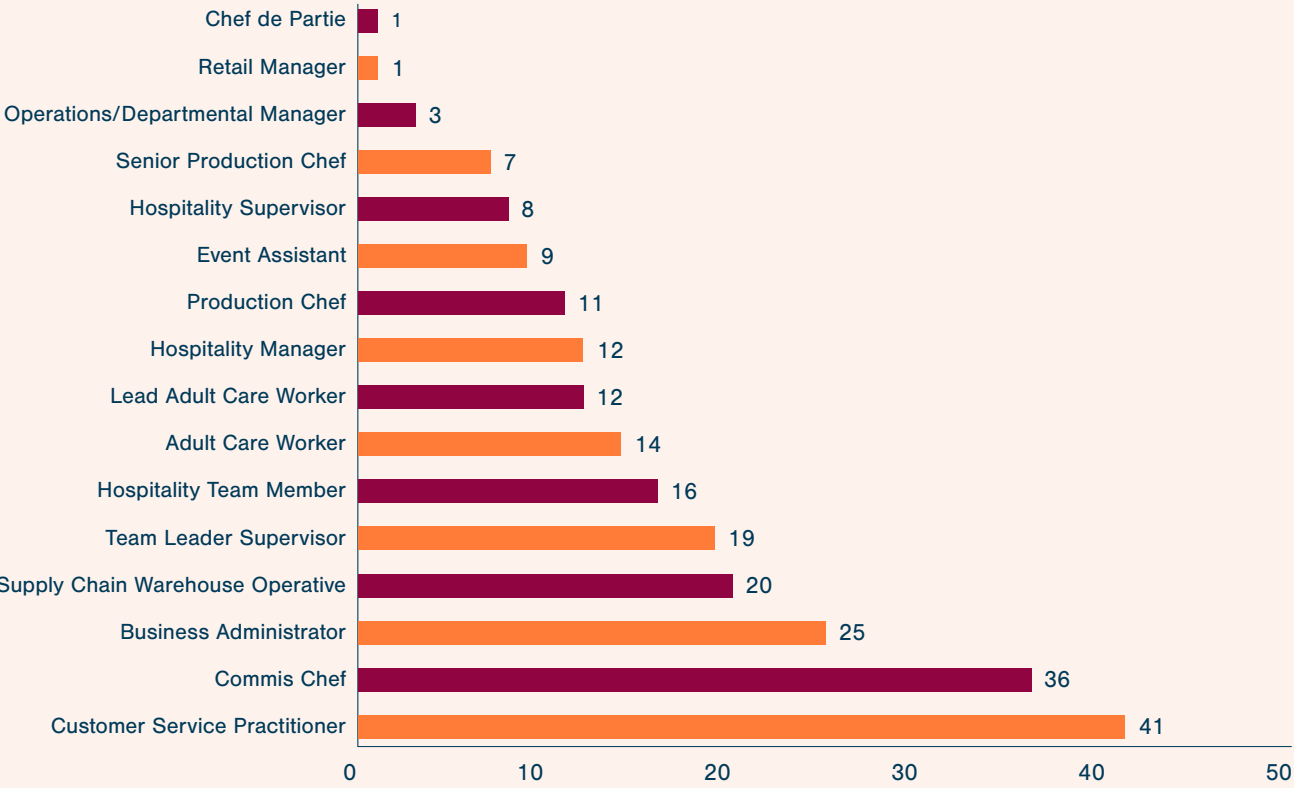
Age demographics as follows:



END-POINT ASSESSMENTS



Achievements for each EPA standard*



*No other BIIAB EPA standards had results during 2021/22.

“BIIAB works really quickly and there is always someone on the end of an email to help with any queries. There are never any delays. You always feel that you are dealing with a person rather than a system.”

– Sandra Bayliss, Senior Apprenticeship Officer, London South East Colleges

QUALITY LICENCE SCHEME

Right Here, Right Now

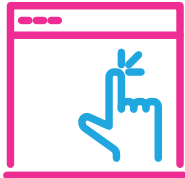
With deep knowledge and experience working within the awarding sector, the Quality License Scheme (QLS) helps organisations develop high-quality courses and/or training programmes for the non-regulated market. The courses on QLS are designed to offer training and learning opportunities without using regulated qualifications, and can also be used for in-house training and for keeping continuing professional development up to date for qualification memberships.

In 2021/22, QLS rebranded and became a company in its own right. Our customers all successfully passed their approval/re-approval audits, which ensure that providers are complying with the QLS Standard and Guidance and are committed to the quality of their organisation, courses and learners. With a growth in the number of learners accessing online courses, especially during COVID-19 lockdowns, we supported more individuals in their educational pursuits.



2,653

Number of new courses added



13,012

Courses registered to date



14,982

Certificates of
Achievement issued

59

Current providers

7

International providers

OUR PROVIDERS

Despite some providers losing project funding for their courses, many continued to deliver high-quality courses that made a real difference in learners' lives. Here's just two of many examples:

One of our QLS providers works in conjunction with other institutions to bring learners the most comprehensive learning materials in order to support them in fulfilling their academic aims. In particular, the provider offers learners a flexible approach to learning that helps those who may otherwise not be able to complete a programme due to geographical restrictions and/or work or home-life commitments. This also benefits those who prefer to be in control of their studies.

Another provider offers courses designed to help those with multiple and complex needs to live independently without support. This involves supporting learners in facing issues relating to mental health, drugs dependency, lifestyle and offending. The courses also provide a certificate to show commitment to learning and improve confidence and self-esteem. Within the next three years, this organisation hopes to become a "provider of excellence" for learning and recovery.

🎧📺🎵 If Not for You



Meet Paul Eeles

I hope you have enjoyed this interactive journey through our successes in 2021/22. In this past year, we’ve had so much to celebrate, including our 110-year anniversary, our annual conference and the launch of our new podcast. Most rewarding of all, we’ve supported more learners than ever before.

There are many people to thank for our successes, starting with our members and customers—we value each of you immensely. I would also like to thank all 75 members of our staff for their hard work this year. With many different brands, services and teams, our organisation is complex and continues to expand. Every staff member’s work makes an important contribution to our overall impact, and nothing that we do is possible without them.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2023 and the years beyond, I am excited about our future and the opportunity to contribute to even more positive change for learners, their families and their communities.

To make this happen, we look forward to supporting more learners through our qualifications and assessments. We also have exciting plans to continue growth, both in the UK and internationally. And we want to continue expanding the activities of our membership and Foundation, enabling us to support the professional development of further education staff, and to help learners overcome social barriers and reach their potential.

In the year to come, we hope you will continue to work with us in broadening participation in education and skills development, and in championing social mobility for all.

With my warmest regards,

Paul Eeles

Paul Eeles
Chief Executive, Skills and Education Group


🎧📺🎵 Born to Be Alive

Born this past academic year, our Let’s Go Further podcast shines a spotlight on education and the role it plays in transforming lives. Each episode features guests from the world of education and beyond, and delves into their journeys, achievements and why education matters to them.

Work on the podcast began in early 2022, with podcast consultancy Research Podcasts providing their training and expertise before the first episode was released in September 2022. Check out Series 1:



LISTEN



LISTEN



LISTEN



LISTEN




LISTEN



LISTEN

We also have exciting plans for Series 2, which will commence in spring 2023, so stay tuned and don’t touch that dial!

All podcast episodes can be found on the Skills and Education Group website and on all major podcast directories, including: 



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