

# SKILLS CONNECT



## A collaborative approach to the Construction & Health & Social Care LOTs of Skills Connect

In late 2021, Yorkshire Learning Providers & West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges secured the Skills Connect contracts, bringing their extensive experience in working with FE & skills funding & organisations to the table. Through their partnership, they aim to provide a more holistic and impactful approach to training and development in these crucial sectors.

By combining resources and expertise, YLP & WYCC are working towards a standardised approach with subcontractors across the two LOTs. This will ensure that training programmes are consistent, efficient, and effective in producing skilled and productive providers and learners.

The partnership also facilitates knowledge-sharing and innovation, enabling the organisations to create more effective training programmes. Ultimately, the collaboration between YLP & WYCC is a significant development for Skills Connect, with the potential to make a positive impact on the construction and health & social care sectors in West Yorkshire.

### Collaborative Partnerships for Skills Connect

Having another prime to work with has been invaluable to our team, and we're proud to work alongside Lyn. We're always just a phone call away to discuss new approaches or ways to tackle data, and we're eager to partner up to improve our representation in West Yorkshire. There's no competition between us, and we're both happy to share anything we think would benefit the other, such as thoughts, findings, and templates. At the end of the day, our top priority is the success of Skills Connect as a whole, and this approach seems to be working well. In fact, we have some partners working on both LOTS which is a standardised approach, making things easier for everyone involved. Our team here at YLP is fully supportive of this approach, and we're looking into the future to combine our social media schedules with WYCC. By doing so, we can ensure that we reshare and like posts, which will help to increase participation in our programmes among a wider audience. - **Kelly Townend, Contract Manager, Yorkshire Learning Providers**

Having Kelly to bounce ideas off and discuss how best to approach different contractual needs is invaluable, particularly in the early days of Gainshare when we were both still learning what Gainshare's aims and objectives is\are. I feel the support Kelly and I have given each other has played a role in WYCC and YLP now making up the highest percentage of delivery for the Gainshare LOTS. Kelly and I discuss the messaging we give to partners, how it has to be consistent, it is clear this is working well when talking to partners who deliver on both LOTS and they reference YLP. Kelly and I discuss targets, we complement each other well with regard to gender targets, due to both our sectors predominantly employing one gender. More recently we have been discussing the recruitment of participants in geographical areas and how we can increase this in some geographical areas. - **Lyn Palmer, Contract Manager, West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges**



### **Best Practice Sharing**

We've been working hard to develop marketing and a regular social media schedule to promote our programmes across multiple platforms and share them with a larger audience. We also regularly ask our providers to share their intake dates so that we can schedule postings and share across our networks. This has led to greater partnerships for the programme, including increased participation in the Health & Social Care forum from sector partners, which has helped us to address local skill needs for this sector. Recently, we introduced a Skills Connect Padlet, which is an online notice board filled with vacancies and event opportunities. By sharing this with providers and learners, we provide access to vacancies in H&SC and enable learners to progress into the sector and also look at potential career advancement. - **Kelly Townend, Contract Manager, Yorkshire Learning Providers**

Like YLP we take supporting our providers very seriously, we provide all our partners with a log in to a members area of the WYCC website, here providers can find documents detailing contractual and evidence requirements. We have regular meetings with providers to discuss the progress of the contract and share best practices among partners, each partner is allocated a dedicated Contract Manager for consistency and to instil good working relations and practices. - **Lyn Palmer, Contract Manager, West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges**

For any Skills Connect primes that would like to look at a more collaborative approach to delivery, please contact [kelly.townend@wylp.org.uk](mailto:kelly.townend@wylp.org.uk) & [lyn.palmer@westyorkshirecolleges.ac.uk](mailto:lyn.palmer@westyorkshirecolleges.ac.uk)