

## Segment One

**Sector:** Textile Manufacturing

**Executive summary:** Let's Talk Real Skills asks for the development of a robust understanding of skills provision across the fashion and textiles sector in the Leeds City Region connected to areas of identified occupational skills shortages. The availability, capacity, level, method of delivery and location of the training were to be mapped.

This report considers skills provision within the Leeds City Region (LCR) from the perspective of the provision offered (Segment 1); it will be supported and balanced by a Segment 2 report which will look at skills needs as identified by the region's employers, specifically within the fashion and textiles environment. As such, it presents findings and identifies gaps on an interim basis in the expectation that some of these may change or that new items will become apparent in due course.

Consideration is given to three areas of provision across the LCR: fashion and textiles, leadership and management and the application of digital technologies in a business context. The report utilises data collated from various sources to make an assessment of what skills provision is offered, what business support is available to complement this offering and provides some exploration of what other regions are offering in the area of Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs). Course provision is broadly mapped across the region with a simple and provisional mapping of IDT expertise provided by the LCR's universities also offered. A sketch of what business support is available currently to LCR companies complements the mapping exercise.

The report identifies 20 areas with possible gaps – and consequent opportunities – for consideration across the three areas of provision. It highlights some broad-brush issues, e.g., a greater need for training at Level 4 and above, as well as specific needs, e.g., a requirement for menders across the region. In addition, the report suggests some ideas that could move provision forward in order to better meet the needs of its business audience. For example, it is evident that a great deal of commercial training is delivered in the region by companies from without. This offers the region's providers an opportunity to create more locally based business, through HE, FE college or private sector routes.

Caveats apply as follows. Although references are made to areas such as the introduction of the T Level, in general terms sixth form colleges have been left out as sources of evidence for provision. The non-wovens side of the T&C manufacturing sector has not been addressed as a specific area and this is an acknowledged gap perhaps best covered through interaction with businesses in that sector in the coming months. Concentration on the Leadership and Management elements of generic provision is quite deliberate and reflects their importance to the T&C sector over other areas. In addition, examples (courses, programmes etc.) from outside the LCR have been included where thought to be relevant or where their offerings appear to be similar to or larger than those generated within. Finally, a large number of courses, in particular those of a short, commercial nature, do not fall into any easy categorisation when viewed against the eight levels within the national framework (Level 1 to PhD). Accordingly, they have not been treated in this way in this report.

Find out more about the Textile Manufacturing Collaborative Skills Partnership and get in touch through - <https://www.westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk/contracted-projects/lets-talk-real-skills/textile-manufacturing>