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**Derbyshire County Council  
Derbyshire Adult Community Education  
Service (DACES) UKPRN: 10001928  
Local Accountability Agreement AY24/25**

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## Purpose

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) provides learning opportunities that raise aspirations and improve people's lives and outcomes, enabling residents to participate in their communities to support the local economy and social growth across Derbyshire.

## Service vision

We anticipate and respond to the needs of individuals, communities, employers, and the local economy through the delivery of creative, inspirational, flexible, and high-quality learning opportunities.

## Strategic aims and objectives<sup>i</sup>

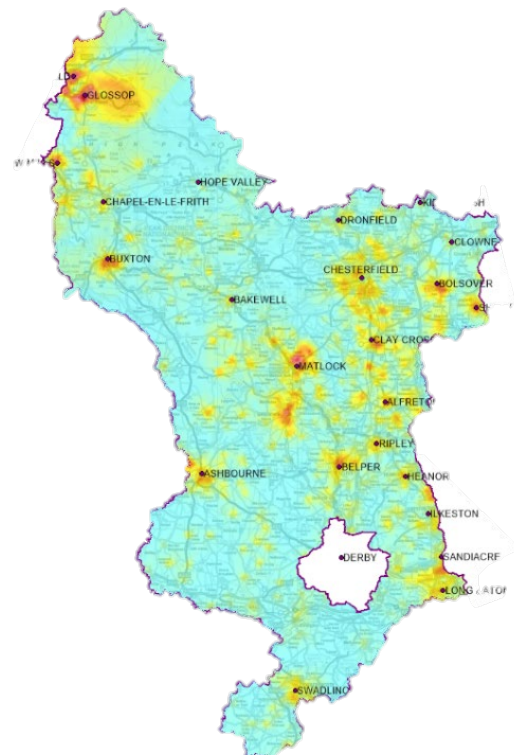
1. Resilient, health, and safe communities
2. High performing, value for money and resident focused services
3. Effective early help for individuals and communities
4. A prosperous and green Derbyshire

## Context and place

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service, is part of Derbyshire County Council, serves the whole of the county of Derbyshire, with the exception of Derby City, reaching around **7,000 adult residents (just under 12,000 enrolments)** in any given academic year.

The service delivers **14-19 programmes, qualification and tailored (formerly community) learning, internships, and apprenticeships<sup>ii</sup>**. The map highlights the distribution of our learners across the county.

Derbyshire is made up of eight local



authority areas (Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, South Derbyshire). There is **no major city in the area and there are several large towns** – Alfreton, Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Glossop, Long Eaton, Ilkeston, Buxton, Swadlincote and Matlock – all of which the service has a major presence.

The service delivers out of **fifteen designated venues**<sup>iv</sup>, many outreach venues in community settings (e.g., libraries, schools, housing associations, and hospitals) and three hybrid teaching spaces.

Derbyshire is a significantly rural county of 2,547km<sup>2</sup> with **a population of around 800,000**, an increase of 0.6% since 2019. Approximately **26% of people live in an urban setting**<sup>v</sup> and the county has a population density of 317 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The rising cost of living including food and fuel means that some communities in Derbyshire experiences higher than average levels of deprivation and poverty. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the most commonly used measure of deprivation and the 2019 index shows there are **twenty-two out of 491 small areas in Derbyshire that fall within the most 10% deprived areas across England**<sup>vi</sup>. Most of these areas are in the North-East of the county and what had previously been coalfield areas.

There are more than **490,000 people of working age (aged 16-64) in the county**<sup>vii</sup>. They represent 61% of all residents, over 2% lower than that seen in England. Since the last census, the number of people of working age in the county has fallen by 1.2%, whereas nationally there has been an increase of 3.7%. Across the districts, only two districts have seen an increase, South Derbyshire, and Bolsover.

There are nearly **176,000 people aged sixty-five and over in the county**<sup>viii</sup>. They represent just over 22% of all residents, 4% higher than that seen in England. Since the last census, the number of people aged sixty-five and over has increased by 23.0% in the county, 3% higher than that seen in England. Across the districts, Chesterfield, Erewash, and Bolsover have all seen large increases.

There are more than **68,400 young people aged 16-24 in the county**. They represent 8.6% of all residents, 2% lower than that seen in England. Since the last

census, the number of 16-24-year-olds in the county has declined by 12.6%, 8% larger decrease than the fall nationally, with South Derbyshire being the only district locally to have seen a rise.

Whilst the qualification levels of Derbyshire's residents have improved over recent years, fewer people are qualified to degree level and above compared with England. Derbyshire performs well on educational attainment, although there is considerable variation across the county on these measures. **Attainment at GCSE level is considerably lower in the districts of Erewash, Bolsover, and South Derbyshire<sup>ix</sup>** with social mobility also being an issue in some parts of the county.

**Across Derbyshire 10% of people have no qualifications.** This is higher than the national average. Nearly 25% of people have a qualification below Level 2 which is 3% higher than the national average. The highest levels of residents with no or below Level 2 qualifications are in Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash, and North East Derbyshire.

**Unemployment tends to be 1% lower than the national and regional rate<sup>x</sup>,** however, Chesterfield, Bolsover and Erewash have higher levels than the rest of the County. **The average weekly wage in Derbyshire is £624<sup>xi</sup>** which is 3.3% less than the average national weekly wage of £645.80. Bolsover, Chesterfield, and High Peak average weekly wage are below £600.

**Around 36,000 children live in families with Absolute or low-income<sup>xii</sup>.** These issues are particularly prevalent in Bolsover, Chesterfield, Amber Valley, and North East Derbyshire.

**Around 46,600 people in Derbyshire assessed their health to be 'bad' or 'very bad' making up 5.9% of the total population<sup>xiii</sup>,** higher than the England average of 5.2%. Bolsover has the seventh highest rate of residents with 'bad' general health of all 309 local authorities across England whilst Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire are also in the top 25.0%. Since 2010 Amber Valley and Erewash, the Institute of Health Equity reports that there has been **significant increases in inequalities in female and male life expectancy<sup>xiv</sup>** in these localities when compared nationally.

Derbyshire is a constituent member of the East Midlands Combined County Authority<sup>xv</sup> (EMCCA) which came into being on the 20 March 2024. From September 2025, **EMCCA will take devolved responsibility for the Adult Skills Fund** and the Council will be working with them over the coming 12 months to prepare in collaborations with other providers, employers, partners, and stakeholders.

## **Planning process**

The annual **planning cycle commences in October and finishes in May of the previous academic year**. The service conducts a detailed analysis of national, regional, and local priorities, considering the direction of Government policy, regional analyses and information produced by D2N2 LEP, DCC Policy Unit, key regional strategies (including the Local Skills Improvement Plan), and the Council Plan.

The DACES Senior Leadership Team consider an **initial set of planning priorities**, in partnership with policy and planning colleagues, as part of the self-assessment process in the Autumn Term of the previous academic year.

**Curriculum Planning Guidance is produced by the service and approved by the Governance Board**. This is the foundation for the programme development team across the county to commence the detailed planning process in December. This provides curriculum intent, market Insights, and the rationale for changes to the curriculum.

In parallel to this, an **analysis of local data is conducted to provide in-depth evaluation of the specific curriculum and geographical needs** across Derbyshire to enable the effective targeting of interventions and efficient deployment of Resources.

The programme development team will then produce and refine a curriculum – in liaison with a range of internal and external stakeholder - of very short, short, and extended programmes across 14-19, tailored learning, qualifications, and apprenticeships to progress learners into employment, onto further learning or signpost to other services.

Each element of **the annual programme aligns to one or more of the following strategic outcomes of the service:**

- progress towards formal learning or employment
- improve health and wellbeing, including mental health
- develop stronger communities

The resulting planned programme is scrutinised, challenged, and further developed through an internal review process. **The Senior Leadership Team scrutinise the proportionality of the programme against the outcome themes, curriculum, and geographical need.**

The final plan is submitted to the Governance Board – which includes local councillors and external stakeholders - for further scrutiny in May of each year.

## **Partnership and co-production**

For the plan to be approved, it must be grounded in good research and strong relationships with other teams in the council and with other local partner organisations.

Other, internal County Council services including Public Health, Learning and Talent Development, Libraries and Information Service, Adult Social Care, Commissioning, Virtual School, Special Educational Needs, Early Years, Thriving Communities, and Economic Development to ensure that the programmes the service delivers are responsive to local priorities and wider determinants of health<sup>xvi</sup>.

The **service has a good relationship with regional partners** including D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership through the People and Skills, Young People and Careers Hub. DACES also works closely with other **Adult and Community Learning Providers across the East Midlands Region** on joint improvement project development, including Strategic Development Bids and Multiply, and response to the changing policy landscape, including devolution.

The service is standing member of the **Derbyshire Employment and Skills Group and works the Skills Leads across the District Councils, other training providers** - including the FE college and University of Derby – as well as strategic partners such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Public Health, and the voluntary sector. The purpose of this group is to ensure that provision aligns with

local needs and plans and is complementary to the local offer which optimises the deployment of resources locally to the benefit of both residents, employers, and other stakeholders. This has seen the service at the heart of the development of **Youth Hubs**<sup>xvii</sup> in Chesterfield and Cotmanhay and the **Skills and Creative Hub** in Clay Cross.

The service also works closely with **voluntary sector partners to deliver course and activities to some of our hardest to reach and most disadvantaged communities**. For example, Partnerships have been formed with Community Connectors to support people with learning disabilities into education.

The service works closely with **social prescribers, doctors surgeries alongside existing mental health service providers** across the county to redevelop the Brightside<sup>xviii</sup> provision, bespoke learning activity targeted at anyone experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties or emotional distress.

The service also collaborates closely with **local employers, specifically education, early years, and care settings**, providing sector-based work academies in care, retail and construction as well occupational standard qualifications and apprenticeships. The service is the education provider for DFN Project Search Transition to Work Programmes<sup>xix</sup> for young people with a learning disability with *Amazon, Chesterfield Royal Hospital* and *Gulliver's Kingdom*. The service also provides work-placed training and development in teacher training, assessor, coaching, mentoring and team leadership skills for the Council and other public sector organisations.

## Our contribution to national, regional, and local priorities

### Strategic Aims and Objectives

#### Resilient, healthy, and safe communities

*(Tailored Learning purpose types: engaging and/or building confidence, preparation for further learning, preparation for employment, improving essential skills, equipping parents and carers to support children's learning, health, and wellbeing, and developing stronger communities)*

#### Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

- We will further develop work with the resettlement team, and other agencies, to further support the integration of displaced communities, (including those from Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine), through the delivery of enhanced ESOL provision to include building skills to live and work in the uk, develop digital and employability skills for 250 learners.
- We will further **develop and design supported learning provision** specifically targeted to improving the needs and goals of 325 individuals with learning disabilities.
- 14-19 provision will provide **eighteen** new DCC Project Search Supported Internship places via an expansion to provide a new project with Amazon in South Derbyshire. The project supports transition to adulthood and 70% secure employment on completion.
- We will further develop Family Learning provision to provide intergenerational and parent programmes to enable two hundred adult individuals to develop essential and cost of living support skills.

#### Priorities impacted and reason for objective:

- Work with partners to welcome refugee families into Derbyshire and developed a countywide response to the implementation of asylum dispersal LSIP to improve digital skills and employability skills for individuals.



- Work alongside people with a learning disability, those recovering from mental ill health and/or who are autistic to develop Council services to ensure they are tailored to meet individuals needs and help people achieve their personal goal.
- Provide support to people and communities in need, including financial help from our Discretionary Fund, and other **activities that promote financial inclusion and tackle cost of living pressures.**

## **High performing, value for money and resident focused services**

*(Tailored Learning purpose types: preparation for further learning, preparation for employment, and improving essential skills)*

## **Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills**

- We will support four hundred individuals with **employability, personal development, career advice and progression plans** as part of their learning programmes.
- We will provide **digital skills programmes for work and everyday life** embedded across all provision strands for 250 individuals.
- We will deliver **construction and building trades occupational qualifications** at Construction Hubs in High Peak and Clay Cross to **forty-five learners.**
- We will continue to deliver qualifications for three hundred learners and apprenticeships in **childcare and education** settings.
- We will continue to provide and improve the outcomes of five hundred learners on **basic English and maths** courses, including offering both functional skills qualifications and essential skills tailored learning programme to meet specific needs of communities and employers.
- Increase the number of **apprenticeships** to fifty in sector areas such as **Team Leader** and **Early Years.**

## **Priorities impacted and reason for objective:**

- Young people and adults will have access to high quality and dynamic labour market intelligence which demonstrates roles available, skills needed **to secure them and the education, training, and support pathways available to help them on**

**their career path.**

- This meets Skills Priorities outlined in the **D2N2 Local Skills Report 2022**
- Digital skills integration in education. To keep pace with the rapidly changing digital landscape, education should **provide digital skills as a key component** of courses.
- Priority skills shortage occupation in **Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, draft Local Skills Improvement Plan**
- Supports the national priority **Apprenticeship programmes and Free Level 3 Courses for Jobs** and the local priority to provide the best education within schools and childcare providers.
- Ensures that children, young people, and adults are **empowered to realise their ambitions and maximise their potential.**
- Supports the council plan to **become an employer of choice** attracting and retaining a talented and diverse workforce.

## **Effective early help for individuals and communities**

*(Tailored Learning purpose types: engaging and/or building confidence, preparation for further learning, improving essential skills, and health and wellbeing)*

## **Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills**

- We will further develop **Brightside** programmes specifically to meet the needs of 150 individuals to maintain their mental wellbeing, supported by partnerships with mental health support organisations.
- We will continue to support three hundred learners to be able to identify their development of **Transferable skills** within their learning in all learning provision.

## **Priorities impacted and reason for objective:**

- Supported more **people to manage their own mental health and wellbeing.**
- **Essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork** are critical for success in any industry.

## **A prosperous and green Derbyshire**

*(Tailored Learning purpose types: engaging and/or building confidence, preparation for further learning, preparation for employment, improving essential skills, and developing stronger communities)*

### **Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills**

- We will continue provide learning programmes 250 eligible individuals with support in developing **employability, work ready, self-employment and entrepreneurial skills**.
- To further develop sustainable education activities across provision and for sixty learners to **increase knowledge of climate change and Net Zero in construction, building trades and countryside skills** through embedding within relevant qualification courses and 14-19 programmes.

### **Priorities impacted and reason for objective:**

- Contributes to meeting the needs of the **developing Net Zero economy as prioritised in the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LSIP and National Skills Priorities**
- **Essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork** are critical for success in any industry, Local Skills Improvement Plan

## Corporation statement:

On behalf of Derbyshire County Council, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the DACES Governance Board on the 21 June 2024.



Cllr Alex Dale

**Cabinet Member for Education**



Mark Homer

**Head of Service**

The plan will be published on the Council's website in advance of the new academic year and accessed through the following link [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation).

Supporting documentation:

- **Derbyshire County Council – Council Plan**
- **Local Skills Improvement Plan for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire**
- **Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy**
- **Derbyshire Public Health - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Report**
- **D2N2 LEP - Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Recovery and Growth Strategy**
- **D2N2 LEP - Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire & Nottingham - Local skills report**
- **DACES Ofsted Report**
- **Derbyshire Observatory - Data and statistics for Derbyshire**

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<sup>i</sup> [Derbyshire County Council Plan 2023 - 2025 Document](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Adult Community Education in Derbyshire](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [Derbyshire population estimates](#)

<sup>iv</sup> [Adult Education Centres in Derbyshire](#)

<sup>v</sup> [Derbyshire map showing rural urban geography](#)

<sup>vi</sup> [Derbyshire map showing deprived former coal mine areas](#)

<sup>vii</sup> [Map of Derbyshire showing the percentage of employed people](#)

<sup>viii</sup> [Derbyshire population estimates](#)

<sup>ix</sup> [Derbyshire levels of education and skills data](#)

<sup>x</sup> [Derbyshire unemployment claimant counts](#)

<sup>xi</sup> [Derbyshire labour market weekly earnings](#)

<sup>xii</sup> [Children in Derbyshire poverty data](#)

<sup>xiii</sup> [Peoples health in Derbyshire information](#)

<sup>xiv</sup> [Geography based information of Derbyshire residents health inequalities](#)

<sup>xv</sup> [East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority](#)

<sup>xvi</sup> [Wider determinants of health fingertip tool](#)

<sup>xvii</sup> [Youth employment support - Derbyshire County Council](#)

<sup>xviii</sup> [Health, wellbeing and fitness courses - Derbyshire County Council](#)

<sup>xix</sup> [Home - DFN Project Search](#)