



TyneCoastCollege

Tyne Coast College

Public Benefit Statement 2024/25

Tyne Coast College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016, is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. In return, we are committed to delivering a concrete, measurable, public benefit to the community we serve which is local, regional and international. In considering our vision, mission and values, Tyne Coast College Board has had due regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on reporting this public benefit.

Introduction

Tyne Coast College emerged following a successful merger of South Tyneside College and Tyne Metropolitan College on 1st August 2017. Tyne Coast College is forging a footprint across the North East of England by continuing to meet the needs of students, business and communities and extending the reach and impact of the diverse and dynamic offer through innovative partnership developments to support the skills needs of existing and emerging industries. The College has an excellent international reputation for its world class marine and merchant navy training with a significant number of overseas marine learners sponsored via our status as a Tier 4 Sponsor with UKVI.

Tyne Coast College is based across 3 campuses covering North and South Tyneside covering a broad portfolio of courses from entry level through to Higher Education. It is made up of a number of entities that have been created to reflect how the College has grown, developed and diversified in response to both the priorities of the central government and the local and regional aspirations of communities and stakeholders that it serves.

The College has been successful in capital bids for a new Campus in South Tyneside and project planning has now commenced.

Connected by a shared vision, mission and core values, the College is made up of:

- South Tyneside College
- Tyne Metropolitan College
- South Shields Marine School
- Sponsor of Tyne Coast Academy Trust

In 2023/24 academic year there were 3,673 enrolments by 1,936 learners on 16-18 Study Programmes, 3,928 enrolments on funded adult programmes and 1,339 on Higher Education programmes. Apprenticeship numbers of 385 continue to demonstrate a planned rationalisation of provision and reduced employer incentives leading to a national decline in Apprenticeship uptake.

The College maintains very high standards and is determined to take every opportunity to improve them further. The quality of education at Tyne Coast College (TCC) is good.

Following our most recent OfSTED inspection (March 2024) all types of provision were judged to be good along with key judgements also judged to be good. Safeguarding was found to be effective.

In addition, the Inspectors recognised the contribution of governance stating ‘Knowledgeable and experienced governors provide effective support and challenge for leaders. They receive comprehensive information about the college’s performance and understand its strengths and where it needs to improve. Governors have been key in the recent changes in the college, providing guidance and constancy during times of change, and are now supporting leaders well to achieve their targets.’

The Residential Accommodation was last inspected in March 2023 and was again judged as ‘Outstanding’.

The College’s first external governance review took place from January 2024 to April 2024. The Board is pleased to report that the review concluded that taking account of meeting observations, discussions and documentation available, the review recognises that the governing of Tyne Coast College is well-organised, committed, positive, challenging and demonstrates ambition. It also stated that there is a supportive and enquiring governing culture, which produces effective governing of Tyne Coast College.

The Board will be addressing the recommendations of the report through its Governance and Search Committee to ensure the necessary fine tuning of governance enhances the performance of the Governing Board.

Staffing and Finance

The College is a significant employer in North and South Tyneside with 514 full time and part time employees. Many of our staff live in the local and surrounding area and bring a real positive contribution to local prosperity and the local economy. Being at the edge of the town centre, both students and staff are encouraged to buy local and so contribute to an increasing prosperity for local businesses and the Borough Councils of North and South Tyneside. Our procurement approach for goods and services is based on quality and best value for money whilst also taking account of our social responsibility which include procuring goods and services from local suppliers.

The gross annual budget of the College is in the order of £41m and the financial health of the College is rated as ‘requires improvement’.

The College places great emphasis on long-term commitment to the professional development and welfare of all of its staff. Members of staff are supported on a wide range of in-house and external programmes up to and beyond degree level. There are innovative internal programmes for all groups of staff and three days are set aside each year for whole College staff development activities. The College’s internal organisation is based upon six teaching departments and an increasing vocational provision for 14-16 year olds, a comprehensive Student Services function, and a range of strong business support functions.

Effective internal communications are a high priority. There is a comprehensive framework of active committees with broad staff representation. We have an active equality and diversity committee which is well represented. Every employee and learner in our college community has a responsibility for making the college an inclusive environment where all members feel

welcome and are able to be themselves, where opportunities are available to all, diversity is valued and everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our work to embed equality, diversity and inclusion is anchored in the duties as applied to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The College has just introduced an early finish (Friday 2.30pm) allowing staff to condense their working hours over 4 ½ days to support their work life balance. Additional 2 days leave has been given to all staff over the Christmas period. All staff receive a Well-Being Day each year and have access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The College had reduced the working hours of Business Support staff to 35 hours from 37 hours (pro rata) without reducing salary to enhance pay conditions.

External Relationships

As a key local service, the College maintains extensive links. There are excellent relationships with local schools within formal structures.

There is a key relationship with both North and South Tyneside Borough Councils and the College contributes to local social and economic regeneration initiatives notably as an active member of the Local Strategic Partnership. There is close working with officers of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and with Local Enterprise Partnerships. There are also close relationships with a range of local voluntary and community sector organisations. There are wide ranging and active links and partnerships with employers across the local area and wider region and the College takes an active part in supporting other education providers in the local area.

The College participates in formal meetings/negotiation groups concerning employment, school expenditure, education matters etc. such as the North Tyneside Business Forum Board.

Within the Marine Sector, the College contributes nationally to shaping UK Maritime training policy as active members of the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMI), the Association of Marine Electrical Radio Colleges and the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB). The College maintains close relationships with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA - the UK Government's Marine Administration), major UK and international shipping companies, international government agencies and international partner colleges. The College continues to lead as the UK's sole provider of, non-cadet, Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) training.

The College recognises the importance of our local community. Many activities take place during the year to encourage the local community to take part and become involved in College life. The College regularly has visits from local schools and charities.

Community groups are also able to make use of and hire our facilities such as our rugby pitches, sports hall etc. Our staff and students take part in charitable work.

Our Vision is: Transforming Lives

Our Mission is: The strategic priorities will be achieved through our mission and values. These are developed to reflect our belief in having a strong community presence and that we take PRIDE in helping every student to achieve their potential: BIGGER, BETTER, STRONGER.

Our Values

P R I D E	Potential We believe every student should achieve their potential
	Respect We value the professionalism, commitment and excellence in our staff
	Inclusive We believe in having a strong and inclusive community presence, embedding everything we do in the local community
	Diversity We believe in celebrating the difference between individuals and the diversity in our community
	Excellence We believe in having high standards to ensuring excellence in everything we do

Strategic priorities: The ambition for our College is formed under two strategic longer-term priorities from 2022- 2025:

- ▶ For Places
- ▶ For People and Productivity

TCC Contribution to National, Regional, and local Priorities

Short term goals and strategic aims and objectives for 2023-2024

1	Increase 16-19 programme of study numbers to meet local skills demand.
2	Roll out T Level provision (Education and Early Years route).
3	Maintain and further develop curriculum efficiency and financial sustainability through the use of Business Planning and Performance Review.
4	Review and further develop the Higher Education Strategy in response to the Life Long Learning entitlement as set out in the HE reforms, (Dec 2022).
5	Further develop the College's stakeholder and employer base to increase opportunities for industry access to meet local demands and skills priorities to support the increase in delivery of Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), Higher Education (HE) & Apprenticeships.
6	Increase adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills to include higher level qualifications aligned to LSIPs and local demand.
7	Ensure the College has the capacity and industry standard facilities to meet the technical skills required to respond to the Green agenda.
8	Continue to develop the College's highly skilled workforce, which is capable of driving innovation and growth towards a sustainable future.

Examples of where the College has added value include:

- Tyne Coast College (South Shields Marine School) has been awarded The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education (2018-2020) for its work in digital modelling and advanced training for ports and waterway development and safe ship movements. This is THE most prestigious award that an educational institution can receive. The award recognises outstanding work by colleges and universities which deliver real benefit to the wider world and public through education and training.
- Staff provide a specialist and cutting-edge curriculum for learners and apprentices studying maritime programmes.
- The outstanding Halls Ofsted Inspection, which commented on the guidance, support and care learners received from all levels of the organisation.
- The College has a mental health first aid instructor and staff have been trained as mental health first aiders.
- SSMS has a truly multicultural student body. The international students bring a significant cultural diversity to both the College and the local community where they live.
- As part of our insurance contract, a Risk Management Bursary was offered by insurers Aviva. This has been used to fund a risk management project in 22/23 to mitigate an element of risk or improved procedure within the College.
- The College supports Tyne Coast Academy Trust in providing first class education to pupils in the local area and beyond.
- The College enables staff to engage in projects that benefit the local community through its Staff Volunteering Policy.
- The strong influx of learners from outside of the locale adds significantly to the local economy.
- A major benefit for employment in the local area, which included further opportunities, equal opportunities etc.

Members of the public can assess the value added to the community served by the College through:

- OfSTED inspection reports
- Student and employer surveys
- Public records of College Board meetings
- College accounts
- College Website

Governors of the College will review and update its Public Benefit Statement as part of its regular review of the College's Strategic Plan.