

### ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT 25 - 26



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### **PURPOSE**

### **OUR PURPOSE**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Our college believes in:

**Inclusion and belonging** 

Mutual trust and respect

**Putting our students first** 

**Always improving** 

**Compassion and empathy** 





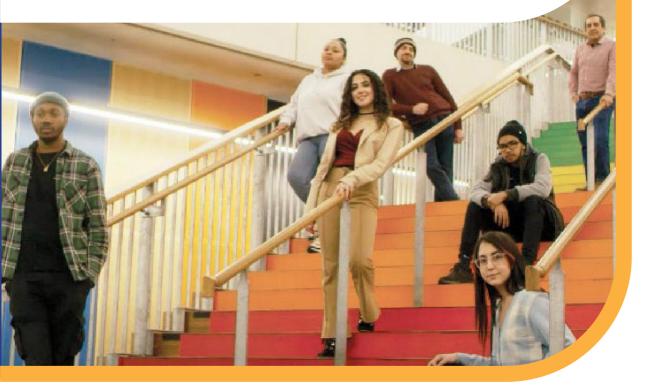
### **CONTEXT AND PLACE**

United Colleges Group (UCG) is a large General Further Education College, formed in August 2017 by the merger of the College of North West London and City of Westminster College. With an annual turnover of £59 million, we are one of the top 20 largest college groups in the UK. At our most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2024, UCG was graded as Good overall and rated as making a strong contribution to meeting local skills needs, the highest possible rating.

We offer education and training in almost all vocational areas at a variety of levels for a wide range of learners, of all ages and starting points. UCG offers routes in all sector subject areas, with the exception of agriculture, horticulture and animal care, manufacturing technologies and retail. UCG teaches a broad range of courses from entry level up to level 6. The largest subject areas in the college are English, Mathematics and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). Other large subject areas include Construction, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Business, and Information Communication and Technology Courses.







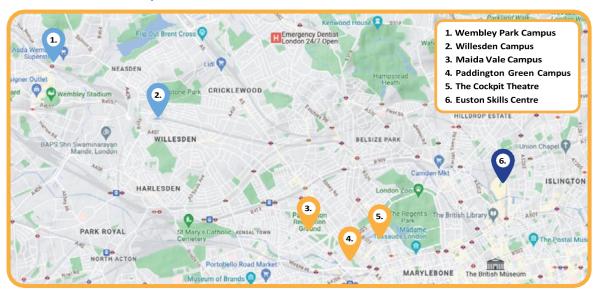
### **OUR STUDENTS**

UCG attracts students from across London and beyond, with a significant number coming from the London Borough of Brent. Our students come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Annually we enrol around 12,000 learners across the group. As well as adult learners this includes circa 3,600 learners on education programmes for young people, 450 apprentices and around 170 learners on discrete supported learning programmes/ supported internships. In addition, we enrol around 250+ HE students. Many learners, including one third of young learners at the college, start at entry level or level 1 and come from vulnerable backgrounds.

#### **UCG** is comprised of two Colleges:

The group operates from six sites across central and north west London. The largest campuses are in Paddington Green and Willesden. Other campuses are in Maida Vale and Wembley. We also deliver from The Cockpit Theatre and a dedicated construction skills centre in Euston in partnership with the London Borough of Camden.

#### The location of our campuses in Central and North West London:













College of North West London

#### **College of North West London**

The College of North West London (CNWL) has two main campuses located in the London Borough of Brent, at Willesden and Wembley Park, as well delivering from the Euston Skills Centre.

The College's focus is on providing the skills for career success at a variety of levels to ensure all students have the opportunity to access learning. Teaching and support services are designed to help students develop a range of skills and offer progression routes either into employment or towards university-level study.

Offering a broad vocational curriculum to both adults and school leavers, specialist subject areas include Construction and Engineering and Building Services, Digital, Science, Health and Social Care, Salon Services and ESOL. CNWL is also a major provider of apprenticeships in construction. CNWL also offers supported learning from its Willesden site.

#### **Wembley Park Campus**

We are going forward in our mission to deliver skills-based learning in Brent by creating a new world-class education facility for our community, based on the former site of the Olympic Office Centre in Wembley. Our ambitious new building will offer classes in green skills, digital technology, computing, and health and social care subjects, in addition to continued core subjects such as ESOL.

Once it is completed our new facility will bring jobs to Wembley and the wider Brent area and will offer opportunities to young people and reduce travel to learn time as well as to adults of all ages to improve their skills, advance their careers, and gain valuable experience.













#### **City of Westminster College**

City of Westminster College is located in Central London with two campuses at Paddington Green and Maida Vale, as well as supporting delivery from our Cockpit Theatre. It offers over 200 courses across a wide range of both vocational and academic subjects. We have specialist facilities including, science labs, engineering and motor vehicle workshops, photography studios, a theatre and TV and Radio studios. Our Maida Vale site also offers extensive ESOL and supported learning provision.

#### The Cockpit Theatre

The Cockpit Theatre is a fringe theatre in Marylebone, London. It remains one of a handful of purpose-built theatre training venues in the capital and is still owned and operated by the City of Westminster College and contributes to the delivery of and real-life enhancement to our Creative Arts curriculum.

#### **Green Skills Hub**

UCG delivers skills and apprenticeship training for a host of significant national and south eastern based employers, as well as SME businesses and local authorities. As part of the West London Alliance we support the London Borough of Brent with the strategic aims of improving the energy efficiency and carbon footprint of their housing stock with the contingent aims of promoting economic growth and supporting those most at risk of long-term unemployment. This has been realised in part with the creation of a Green Skills Hub at our Willesden Campus, supported by Brent Council. Our membership of the Central London Forward Group has supported an additional Green Skills Centre at our Paddington Green campus in Westminster. As well as working alongside the borough of Camden the new Euston Skills Centre also houses a Green Skills Academy, training the sustainability workforce of the future.



# OUR CONTEXT AND COMMUNITIES

#### The home borough of CNWL: Brent

Brent is situated in North West London. It is the capital's seventh most populous borough, with a population of 339,800. Brent has a young population; the median age is 36, four years below the average for England; 24% of local people are under the age of 18. It is the second most ethnically diverse borough in London - 64% of the local population is from Black, Asian and other minority groups. Some 56% of Brent residents were born overseas: 37% of residents do not have English as their main language - the second highest proportion in London. Most groups in Brent's working population have lower employment rates than in the rest of London. Economic activity is 72.5% in Brent compared to 78.1% in London.

#### The home borough of City of Westminster College: Westminster

Stretching just over eight square miles, Westminster is one of London's largest central boroughs. It has some of the most affluent residential areas in the country, but a diverse demographic means also some of the most deprived. The population increases to 1.1 million workers with the influx of workers, shoppers and tourists in the day time. The average median household income in Westminster is £55,536, yet the average property price is £957,576 nearly two times higher than London as a whole, and almost five times higher than that of the UK. There is high contrast in income between different wards with an average mean income in Knightsbridge and Belgravia, for example, double that of Church Street (near the College's Paddington Green site).

Westminster in particular is a major cultural hub. Westminster has 27% of all London's jobs in music and the performing and visual arts.1 in 5 jobs in London's creative economy are in Soho.

#### The London LSIP and sub regional partnerships

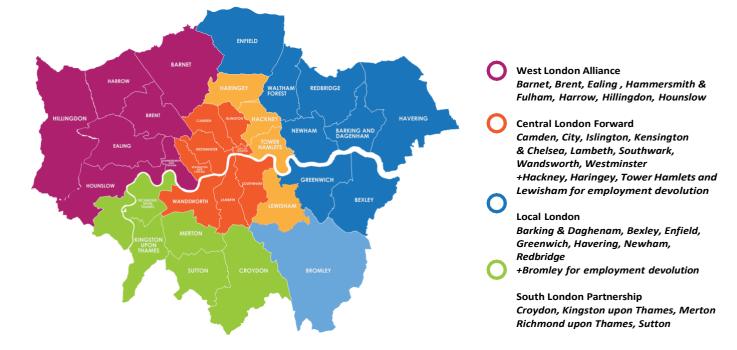
UCG crosses two neighbouring sub-regional partnerships

Central London Forward: covering the local authorities of Camden, the City of London, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster.

West London Alliance covering Brent, Barnet, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham. Harrow, Hillingdon, and Hounslow.



## BOROUGH STRATEGIC SUB-REGIONAL PARNTERSHIPS (SRPs)



#### **Central London Forward: The Central London context**

The 12 central London boroughs host 2.3 million jobs - one in every 9 jobs across the UK. Central London is home to multiple worldleading clusters - from life sciences, digital tech and financial and professional services to creative industries and higher education. These sectors compete for investment internationally, and they are linked to similar clusters across the UK.

Alongside the wealth and opportunity in the city, central London has long suffered from high levels of poverty. Most of the 12 central London boroughs are in the most deprived 20% of local authorities nationally, and poverty and child poverty are far higher than the national average.

While the capital is home to great wealth and a strong economy, many Londoners struggle to access the opportunities available on their doorstep. London has the highest levels of poverty of any region or nation of the UK, with three in ten Londoners living in poverty This is partly due to the high cost of living in the capital, but it is also due to the fact that London has both higher unemployment than the UK average, and a large number of Londoners in low paid work.

Most people in central London who are in poverty are in a household in which someone is in work. This is partly due to the prevalence of low pay; more than 300,000 employee jobs in central London are paid below the London Living Wage.



#### **West London Alliance**

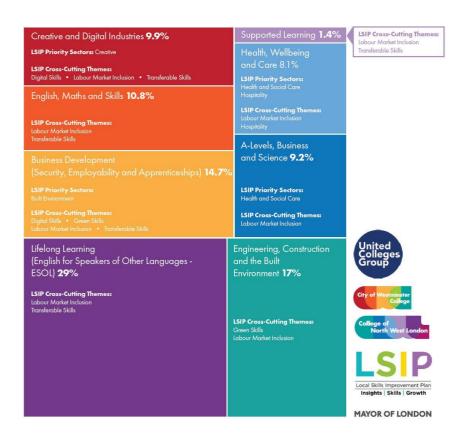
West London occupies a highly strategic location between Heathrow Airport and the City of London, and has a large base of over 100,000 businesses of all sizes. However, 15% of residents have low or no skills and 31% of 19 year olds leave full time education without a level 3 qualification. Intergenerational poverty in some areas remains entrenched and employers report a range of skills shortages that have potential to hinder West London's future growth prospects. West London's labour market comprises a working age population of 1.5 million people, which is projected to grow by 8% by 2025. 64,000 jobs are forecast in the green economy in West London by 2030, growing to 122,000 in 2050 up from 32,000 in 2020.

#### **Summary of key skills challenges for Londoners:**

- Unemployment rates above the national average, with young people, disabled adults, black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) groups
  and women disproportionately under-represented in the labour market, especially in higher-skilled, better-paid jobs
- Long-term unemployment (those who have never worked) was much higher in London in 2021 (35% of those unemployed compared with 26% in England). This was highest in central and west London
- Wages struggling to keep pace with the rising costs of living, leaving one in five workers paid below the London Living Wage and the highest proportion of people in poverty of any UK region
- A third of boroughs saw the proportion of the population with no qualifications increase since 2011, most notably in West London: the
  only sub-region to see an increase overall
- Low levels of qualifications and skills holding many Londoners back, particularly in literacy, English language, numeracy and digital. In 73% of London households all adults in the household have English as the main language compared with 89% in England
- While the capital has higher levels of qualifications overall, 1.7 million Londoners do not have a level 3 qualification, equivalent to
   A Levels. This puts these residents at a significant disadvantage in a highly competitive labour market; Londoners with lower levels of
   qualifications are far more likely to be unemployed or in low paid work

#### **Meeting Skills Priorities**

Provision at UCG is well aligned to the priority sectors of the London LSIP. The image below shows how the proportion of our 2024/25 learners in each of our career clusters maps against the priority sectors and the cross-cutting themes identified in the London LSIP.





# APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

#### **The London Context**

- BusinessLDN leads Greater London LSIP in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses London (FSB), London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), and Confederation of British Industry London (CBI), with the backing of the Mayor of London and London government.
- At the London-wide level, the London LSIP covers the whole capital and has identified several key target sectors aligned with the Mayor's priorities: creative, tech, health and social care, hospitality, and construction. In addition, the LSIP focuses on labour market inclusion, digital, and green skills as cross-cutting themes.
- BusinessLDN is also working closely with London's four sub-regional partnerships (SRPs) groupings of London boroughs. Each SRP
  has an LSIP report for their local area based on their priorities under BusinessLDN's oversight.
- UCG as outlined above sits within two SRPs: Central London Forward (CLF) and West London Alliance (WLA). In terms of the
  production of this accountability agreement given the London Context and the geographical proximity of the Colleges, the cross-cutting
  themes of the LSIP apply to both Colleges and thus have been treated as a whole.

#### **Key Stakeholders**

UCG works with a range of local, regional and national stakeholders in addition to our key relationships with our sub regional partnerships of WLA and CLF. We consult strategic partners to ensure that our accountability agreement meets skills priorities and serves the needs of our students. We are an anchor institution, committed to meeting the needs of the local community and working with partners to meet their priorities.

We work and meet with local London boroughs Brent, Westminster and Camden to ensure that our skills priorities are in key alignment with their plans and that we are able to utilise key synergies to mutual benefit for residents and students. In addition, as a key stakeholder we work with the Greater London Authority to deliver on meeting the needs of London and with the DFE around wider national skills priorities.

Through organisations such as the Association of Colleges (AOC) we work with local and national FE institutions to understand common challenges and solutions in the current and future educational landscape. Collaboration with our West London Universities Partnership (which convenes Vice-chancellors) and West London FE College Principals Group is strong. Since 2021 WLA and WLB have supported the two groups coming together to establish four FE/HE working groups and three Mayoral Skills Academy Hubs in the priority sectors of Health and Social Care, Green, and Creative (Film/Screen) skills. This building of sector-based skills networks has allowed significantly increased strategic collaboration between local authorities/intermediaries and training providers. This has enabled us to work on a combination of longer-term systemic change (e.g. improved curricula), more immediate outcomes (e.g. short, sector-focused preemployment training leading directly to work, a West London Progression Agreement, sharing best-practice across sectors), and successful funding bids via the SRPs for Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) monies for skills curriculum development across various sectors.

We are a member of BusinessLDN and Westminster Business Council to enable us to understand emerging local and pan London business and sectoral landscapes. In addition, we work with trade bodies representing industry sectors to support their training needs, helping build a safe, professional and fully qualified workforce particularly in the area of Construction engineering and the Built Environment

We work with a wide range of national, regional and local employers who share opportunities, knowledge and expertise, support the development of curricula and provide work experience and industry placements for our students and support our understanding of priority emerging skills needs and emerging technologies and practices. expertise, support the development of curricula and our understanding of priority emerging skills needs and emerging technologies and practices.



## UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

College Aims and Objectives

# Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment and Green skills

Develop new skills areas will meet local and national skills demands and aim to bridge the gap in skills deficit.

Ensuring a valid and meaningful but future proof curriculum offer meets the needs of the landscape.

Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Green skills jobs are increasing nationally and in particular green skills jobs in London are expected to double this decade.

Policies to transition to a net zero economy will further increase demand and employment.

There is demand for skilled craft workers but also to replace those who are leaving the employment market.

The drive for decarbonisation will impact on carbon intensive sectors which locally represent a higher proportion in West London than the London average.

Skills provision needs to be shaped to equip London's future green workforce to deliver the pipeline of skilled individuals and the specific skillsets that are needed for developing green technology

**Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026** 

For 25-26 there are 50516-18 learners and 390 19+ learners planned for the area of Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment

#### **GSAP (Green Skills Advisory Panel)**

Objective 1.1 UCG has committed to serving as a leading hub for the London region in the advancement of Green and Retrofit technologies. As a central partner in this initiative, UCG will collaborate closely with other Further Education (FE) providers to drive innovation and create opportunities across London. UCG will take a proactive leadership role in coordinating efforts among fellow lead colleges, guiding both the strategic direction and operational proceedings of the hub and its associated forums. A key focus of UCG's activity within the Green Skills Advisory Panel (GSAP) will be the development of a shared Green and Retrofit staffing pool. This collaborative staffing model will support the delivery of specialist courses across the region, helping to address workforce capacity challenges while also enhancing financial sustainability for UCG and its partners.

**Objective 1.2** LSIF implementation within curriculum (Refrigeration, heating and air-conditioning)

UCG is strategically focused on maximising the utilisation of its upgraded state-of-the-art equipment and specialist resources to support the development and expansion of its provision in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector. A key objective is to transition this high-quality provision towards commercial delivery models, creating opportunities to generate additional revenue and strengthen the college's financial sustainability. This will involve targeted outreach to industry partners, bespoke training offers, and the integration of commercial short courses alongside the core curriculum.

In response to increasing industry demand and the national skills shortage in this specialist area, UCG is planning a structured expansion of its apprenticeship offer. This will include increasing the number of available apprenticeship placements, enhancing delivery capacity, and strengthening employer engagement across the sector to ensure alignment with current and future workforce needs.

UCG is now recognised as one of the very few Further Education providers in the UK delivering Refrigeration and Air Conditioning training. This positions the college as a national leader in this field, and an essential contributor to the development of green and sustainable technologies.

Timeline

End of term 1 2025/6

September 2025



# UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

College Aims and Objectives

#### 1. Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment and Green skills

Develop new skills areas will meet local and national skills demands and aim to bridge the gap in skills deficit.

Ensuring a valid and meaningful but future proof curriculum offer meets the needs of the landscape.

Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

**Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026** 

T-Levels 24/25

Objective 1.3 To recruit to 4 T level routes 25-26

Year 1 - 1 cohort for each pathway

- Electrotechnical Building services Engineering
- Plumbing Building Services Engineering
- Design and Development of engineering and manufacturing
- Civil engineering

Year 2 - 1 cohort

Civil engineering

 $\label{lem:objective 1.4} \textbf{ Retrofit and Green Skills additionalities.}$ 

UCG will integrate core elements of retrofit awareness and sustainable technologies into all study programmes, with a focus on technical pathways. For 16-18-year-old Electrical Installation learners, this will include the delivery of skills development in installation and maintenance of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging platforms—an area of increasing importance aligned with the UK's net-zero agenda.

In the Plumbing, Heating, and Ventilation pathway, sustainability remains a central theme. Learners will gain a deepened understanding of sustainable systems and environmentally responsible practices, directly aligned with industry standards and expectations. The implementation of Water Regulation training for all 16-18 Plumbing learners is being embedded throughout study programmes. This practical skills development enhances students' readiness for the workplace and accelerates their progression towards obtaining a licence to practise—adding value to their qualification and employability outcomes.

We will enhance the delivery of carbon and climate literacy, sustainable construction principles, and renewable energy knowledge. These topics will be introduced through a series of bolt-on skills sessions, embedded into tutorials and theory-based lessons.

**Objective 1.5** To run pathways across Construction and the Built Environment/ Building Services for those eligible for L3 Free Courses for Jobs

At Willesden

Carpentry and Joinery, Bricklaying, Plastering, Plumbing and Heating, Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat Pump Systems, Sustainable Construction or Smart Building Systems.

At Paddington

Motor Vehicle Repair and Electrical Installations

**Objective 1.6** Recruit to Higher Technical Qualification - HNC in Construction Management 1 x cohort

Timeline

September 2025

September 2025

September 2025

October 2025



## UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

College Aims and Objectives

2. Support routes to employment for those with low levels of English literacy and language, numeracy and enable the unemployed to re or upskill to enter the labour market, meeting the needs of employers

Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Basic English, ESOL and Maths are identified as cross cutting skills needed across sectors throughout London. London reports above average unemployment with substantial variation in employment rates, with both CLF and West London alliance having higher than London average unemployment rates. Brent as a borough has a high proportion of residents that do not speak English as their main language,

**Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026** 

Objective 2.1 ESOL

- To enhance the ESOL course offer for adults to provide a wider range of employability skills including Digital Skills, Employability Awards and Volunteering Award
- Enhance the study programme for ESOL to offer introductory taster courses in IT, Science and Construction Trades
- Work with 4 primary schools to provide ESOL for Parents Courses aimed at hard-to-reach learners
   60 learners targeted for basic numeracy courses.
- 5. 1000 adults targeted for employability skills
- 6. 1600 Adult learners targeted for ESOL

Objective 2.2

Sector or skills-based courses to re or upskill the unemployed via partnership with the DWP/ employers

- Short sector or skills specific courses delivered over
   2, 5, 7 weeks.
- Courses are linked to licence to practice employment
   All learners are provided robust funded employability
- All learners are provided robust funded employability wrap around course for the required sector and are fully licenced on successful completion.
- All courses are linked to employers who providing group interviews, employment advice and CPD expectations.
- 800 learners target for 25/26

3. Enhance existing and develop new Health and Social Care and technical medical Science routes to Higher education or directly to employment.

 There are widespread recruitment and employment challenges across both the health, technical medical and care sectors across London • In the Survation survey for the LSIP, 40% mentioned some gaps in skills and capacity for the existing workforce. The care sector faces the challenge of an ageing workforce, with older managers who are retiring not being replaced. Considerable upheaval exists amongst the existing care sector workforce with a 30% annual staff turnover, 60% moving around the sector and the number of employees in the care sector falling • for the first-time last year.

Health and social care

**Objective 3.1** recruit to Levels 1 to 3 NCFE Health and Social care qualifications targeted at over 300 learners providing a progression route to professionals and further study at HE level, including nursing and ancillary professions. Introduction of the new adult level 2 certificate in preparing to work in adult social care course.

Objective 3.2 Further Development of the Health and Social Care and Life Science employer forum in 25/26 to ensure that UCG has a two-way forum to explore the curriculum and skills needs of employers to enhance the curriculum and delivery and ensure that students meet the skills needs of employers. To expand employer engagement by holding termly forums throughout the academic year

**Objective 3.3** Extend the Higher Development Award in partnership with NHS trusts in north central/north west London to enable the upskilling of NHS staff at both level 2 and 3 in partnership with London colleges.

Timeline

Overall targets for end of June 2026

Sector specific / DWP courses target by end of July 2026

September 2025

January 2026

September 2025



## UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

Coll	ege Aims	
and	<b>Objectives</b>	

3. Enhance existing and develop new Health and Social Care and technical medical Science routes to Higher education or directly to employment.

Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026

**Objective 3.4** To utilise the WLA LSIF equipment to meet stated aims of enhancing up to date technology and work environment in the Health and Social care offer

LSIP project has enhanced the teaching facilities; we will further engage health sector employers with curriculum design and placements for learners; and additional staff CPD to upskill in specific areas such as dementia care.

The college will use the new hospital suite at Paddington to provide learners with a real working environment to apply their theory into practice, experiment with real case studies, and practice underpinning health and safety procedures. The ward features specialist dementia care resources and virtual reality software to engage with patients and link to the added units around understanding dementia care.

#### Science

**Objective 3.5** Recruit to Routes from Level 1 Extended Certificate to Level 3 Foundation/ Extended Diploma in Science for over 450 learners (309 planned 16-18 and 150 19+enrolments) providing routes to HE with particular progression to allied medical technical routes.

**Objective 3.6** recruit to the T level in Science - Technical Laboratory Science route offering vocational route to employment or higher-level technical science professions 1x cohort year 1, 1x cohort year 2

T-Level in Health, with a focus on Adult Nursing, with a strong emphasis on the development of technical skills and sector specific knowledge and behaviours 1 x cohort year 1

#### Free courses for jobs:

**Objective 3.7** Offer 5 routes for learners eligible under Free Courses for Jobs

- Level 3: BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Health and Social Care
- Level 3: BTEC National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care
- BTEC National Extended Diploma in Applied Science- medical pathway
- BTEC National Extended Diploma in Applied Science
- Access to Medicine

Timeline

September 2025

September 2025

September 2025

September 2025



# UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

College Aims and Objectives

4. Meet the needs of local and regional employers by offering apprenticeship routes across key in-demand skills sectors

Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Apprenticeships are a key part of the government's plans for developing the skills sector and ensuring a vocational skills workforce. They support business to future proof their workforces with a particular focus on sectors with existing and emerging skills needs allied to the government's national skills and local skills

Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026

**Objective 4.1** - to offer a range of apprenticeships to support employers across and surrounding London

- 150 new apprenticeship enrolments targeted in 25/26. Total of around 420 apprentices will be on programme during the year
- Additional growth planned for the refrigeration and air conditioning apprenticeship. 98% of the Colleges offer is aligned to the regional priority sectors, with this predominantly being in the Built Environment

The 25/26 apprenticeship offer

- Level 2 Accounts or Finance Assistant
- Level 3 Assistant Accountant
- Level 3 Business Administrator
- Level 2 Bricklayer
- Level 2 Carpentry & Joinery
- Level 2 Interior Systems Installer (Drylining)
- Level 2 Plasterer
- Level 2 Property Maintenance
- Level 2 General Welder (Arc Processes)
- Level 2 Professional Security Operative
- Level 2 Engineering Operative
- Level 3 Civil Engineering Technician
- Level 3 Building Services Design Technician
- Level 3 Advanced Carpentry & Joinery
- Level 3 Gas Engineering Operative
- Level 3 Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heat Pump Engineering Technician
- Level 3 Installation Electrician /Maintenance Electrician
- Level 3 Plumbing and Domestic Heating Technician
- Level 4 Construction Site Supervisor
- Level 4 Building Services Engineering Technician

**Objective 4.2** Enhance the Personal development of apprentices by adding additional employer and green technologies additionalities

During 25/26 United Colleges group will be focused on enhancing its existing provision as well as developing new programmes in line with regional employer needs. Activity will include:

- Working with local employers the College aims to create opportunities for guest lectures carried out by industry experts.
   The aim is to create a bank of sector experts who can bring some further "real life" working examples and projects to the apprentices learning experience
- Under section 1 above Utilising the Colleges investment using LSIF funds in green technologies, the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning department have seen the most recent investment. This will provide the opportunity for apprentices and employers to gain experience around maximising energy efficiency within building management systems. Alongside this, apprentices in other construction trades will be able to utilize the technologies to glean an understanding of the green sector and how the industry is moving towards net zero.

Timeline

End of July 2026



## UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

### College Aims and Objectives

5. Digital Develop routes
to higher level
qualifications to
meet existing and
emerging skills needs
pan London across all
sectors
Reduce digital
exclusion through
basic digital skills

#### Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Skills analysis reports that the need

for digital across all sectors, both

basic and advanced digital skills will be highly sought after in the short-to medium-term (2-5 years). London across all sub regional partnerships currently has a challenge with digital poverty and digital inclusion which limits people's general employability as well as the number of sectors and careers they can potentially pursue. Digital is a key skill need in the skills sectors identified as important

eg green skills, engineering and construction, health and social care

#### **Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026**

United Colleges Group will aim to meet the skills gap in the digital sector by Objective 5.1

Recruiting to a T-Level qualification for 16-18-year olds across the Digital - Design Production design and Development route 1 x year 1 cohort,

**Objective 5.2** UCG's provision, ranging from L1 to L3 (in addition at E3 for adults) in IT skills will offer qualifications that meet the needs of learners of all ages providing pathways to industry or to HE,

Digital 16-18: 361 students across both sites Digital 19+: 117 students across both sites

Free courses for Jobs

#### Objective 5.3

Two routes at L3 though the BTEC Extended Diploma in IT and the L3 Diploma for IT users.

HTQs

#### Objective 5.4

To run and recruit HNC/D Higher Technical Qualification in Computing offering a refreshed curriculum including software development and programming skills. 1 x cohort

**Objective 5.5** Further development of the Digital employer forum in 25/26 to ensure that UCG has a two-way forum to explore the curriculum and skills needs of employers, including sector specific needs

**Objective 5.6** Essential Digital Skills- Embed and offer qualifications that meet the upskilling needs of adult learners via short courses or bolt-ons for DWP /sector specific courses outlined in section 2

#### Timeline

September 2025

January 2026

September 2025

October 2025

February 2025/6

Various entry points
from September
2025



# UCG – CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES 2025/26

Coll	ege Aims	
and	<b>Objectives</b>	

6. Creative Industries Ensure through
industry standard
resources pathways
to industry or further
study across a variety
of creative routes

#### Contribution to Local, Regional and National Priorities

Creative industries are a key skills sector for London and particularly for the sub regional partnerships of Central London Forward and West London Alliance. Skills in demand are typically those allied to technical/ production and skilled trade occupations

#### **Key Intended outcomes 2025-2026**

**Objective 6.1** UCG through its Creative Industries Department will offer 16-18-year olds performing arts and music production training though the following courses:

- L2 and L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma in Performance and Production Arts
- L2 and L3 Diploma/ Extended Diploma in Music Performance and Production

Target 167 students

**Objective 6.2** Within Media and Art & design, pathways in TV production, Audio production and Photography allow for individuals to develop the technical skills needed to meet the skills gap in London: target 254 students

- L2 and L3 Diploma/ extended Diploma in Media Production
- L2 Diploma in Art & Design
- L3 Applied General Diploma/ Extended Diploma in Art & Design (Photography Pathway)
- Level 3: Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication

### **Objective 6.3** LSIF implementation within the creative curriculum

- Increased usage of upgraded TV Studio, including mixing desk, augmented reality and virtual reality and motion capture in the curriculum
- Increased synergy between creative and digital students.
- Workforce Industry Exchange (WIE) activities
- Engagement with freelancers through the creation of a 'Huh'
- Enhanced links with Industry partners through creative employers Skills Forum

Timeline

September 2025

September 2025

Term 1 2025/26





### **LOCAL NEEDS DUTY**

The Corporation of United Colleges Group has taken due regard to the to the Meeting Skills Needs Guidance as issued by the Department of Education in discharging its duty to review how well the education and training provided through its college campuses meet local skills needs. The review of skills needs and the College's response is set out clearly in this Accountability Statement. This includes a detailed assessment of the local populations the college serves across several London boroughs, the needs of employers regarding current and emerging skills demands, working with two Local Skills Improvement Partnerships, Employer Representative Bodies and other sub-regional partnerships and agencies. The Corporation has taken into account the National Skills Priorities and this Accountability Statement sets out UCG's contribution to meeting these. The Corporation has reviewed and adjusted the curriculum offer of the college to be able to best support identified skills gaps and improve the employability and life chances of all students it serves providing opportunities for all levels of prior attainment. United Colleges Group develops its curriculum offer in consultation with other colleges within the West London area, and alongside Higher Education Institutions to support progression.

### 06-08



### **CORPORATION STATEMENT**

On behalf of the United Colleges Group Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that the Accountability Agreement as set out above reflects the agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Corporation and fulfils the statutory Local Needs Duty

Name: Franklin Asante Role: Chair to the Corporation

Signature:



Name: Stephen Davis

Role: CEO/ Group Principal and Accounting Officer

Signature:

7. Hyperlink

https://cwcwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinityassets/docs/default-source/default-library/ucg-accountability-agreement.pdf

#### 8. Supporting Documentation

Key documentation

London LSIP

Home - Central London Forward

West London Alliance - Improving outcomes for over 20 years (wla.london)

City Plan 2019 - 2040: | Westminster City Council

www.westminster.gov.uk/cultural-strategy

Camden 2025 and Our Camden Plan - Camden Council

Brent Borough Plan 2023 - 2027 | Brent Council





Paddington Green Campus City of Westminster College Paddington Green Campus 25 Paddington Green London W2 1NB 020 7723 8826

Maida Vale Campus City of Westminster College Maida Vale Campus Elgin Avenue London W9 2NR 020 7723 8826

Willesden Campus College of North West London Willesden Centre Entrance on Denzil Road (off Dudden Hill Lane) London NW10 2XD 020 8208 5000

Wembley Campus
College of North West London
Wembley Park Campus
147A Wembley Park Drive
Wembley
London HA9 8HQ
020 8208 5000

Euston Campus Euston Skills Centre Starcross Street London NW1 2HR 020 8208 5000

The Cockpit Theatre Gateforth Street London NW8 8EH 020 7258 2925