

YORKSHIRE SKILLS SUMMIT

SUMMARY

www.wylp.org.uk





Introduction

On 9th October we held our 3rd members conference in 2024, the theme being "Yorkshire Skills".

The session brought together a fantastic line up of local, regional and national colleagues to explore the skills landscape, local need and share thoughts on the recent announcements and possible changes our sector is set to face in 2025.

With over 75 of our members present for the morning, held at Wetherby Golf Club, we shared the work Yorkshire Learning Providers is doing to support the skills eco-system across Yorkshire and importantly what we do to bring our members together to discuss, debate and explore.

Our Community Portal

We introduced our Community Portal, a dedicated platform designed to assist our members with datasets, high-quality resources, exclusive member offers, and continuing professional development opportunities. We also highlighted the projects, research, and contracts we oversee and commission for the skills sector and our members: www.wylp.org.uk/contracts-and-research.

The YLP Member Community Portal is a dynamic and dedicated platform tailored to support and empower our members in their professional and personal growth. It serves as a one-stop hub where members can access a wealth of high-quality resources, tools, and opportunities aimed at fostering continuous learning and collaboration.

Through the portal, members can easily access exclusive datasets that are invaluable for research, analysis, and projects across various disciplines. These datasets are curated to meet the evolving needs of our community, offering members an edge in their respective fields.

In addition to data, the portal features a diverse library of premium resources, including industry reports, white papers, and reports all designed to keep our members informed on the latest trends and innovations. These materials are carefully selected to ensure relevance and value, helping members stay at the forefront of their industries.

The exclusive member offers available through the portal provide tangible benefits, including discounts on industry-leading tools, services, events, and more.

Overall, the YLP Member Community Portal is designed to be an essential resource for members, promoting engagement, growth, and success in an ever-evolving professional environment. It fosters collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning, ensuring that every member has the tools and support they need to thrive.



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The event then handed over to the very passionate and inspiring Mayor of York & North Yorkshire, who shared the skills strategy vision and ambitions for the region. The Mayors approach was humble and aspirational and clearly showed a commitment to community being at the heart of what he wants to achieve. He spoke openly about the skills needs facing the region and the rural & coastal differences faced for the country's largest region.

We have a lot more we will be doing to support YNY as they approach devolution and this won't be the last time members will see & hear the mayor at our events – a Mayors event due in early 2025!

WYCA provided a detailed update on the WY skills plans and priorities and how the CA are engaging with the sector. There are big plans for the mayor on how skills will meet local area priorities such as mass transit, green homes and the WY promise – ensuring every young person has the opportunity to learn employer endorsed skills to enable them to become more employable.

We then heard from the West & North Yorkshire LSIP leads on the key priorities and themes for the region and the work that has taken place to support industry and business within these priority sectors. The leads shared the work of the LSIF and how all types of providers can learn lessons from the curriculum activity and skills research that was undertaken by the projects.

<https://www.wy/p.org.uk/york-north-yorkshire-lsif-booklet/>



National Panel

Following a brief break, we had an incredible line up for the panel discussion on the future of skills.

The audience shared questions prior to the session and we challenged each of our panel members to provide 5 words or less on their thoughts about the recent announcements and changes within FE & Skills and Ofsted – the responses below:

- Ben Rowland, AELP: *"On a knife's edge – unnecessarily.."*
- Chris Nicholls, Association of Colleges: *"Love our Sector Challenges Opportunities"*
- Clarissa Wheeler, Ascentis AO: *"More opportunities than limitations"*
- Lou Doyle, Mesma: *"Green shoots (but) don't faff around"*
- Mandy Crawford-Lee, University Vocational Awards Council: *"Major disruptors: Good & bad"*

The panel then shared their thoughts on how vocational education will evolve over the next few years and the importance of employers and Government, at local, regional & central level, recognising the importance of vocational skills and all types of providers to deliver them. We discussed how the apprenticeship levy is set to change and what that might mean for more or less opportunities to work with businesses and what they would like to see included in the change.

The panel were open, honest, passionate, fun and inspiring to listen to, with audience interaction and discussion / debate on what we all think needs to happen to improve the Government's response to the skills sector. More funding from Treasury, more celebrating & showcasing with local MPs – they are your voice into parliament, and more collaboration to meet local and regional skills needs.

Acknowledgements

The full suite of slides are available to download now and please do get in touch for any comments or questions.

We look forward to seeing you at our final members conference of the year and our AGM on 5th December, venue TBC – with colleagues from DfE and Ofsted providing policy updates.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ylp-december-conference-2024-save-the-date-tickets-1048803709127?aff=oddtcreator>

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