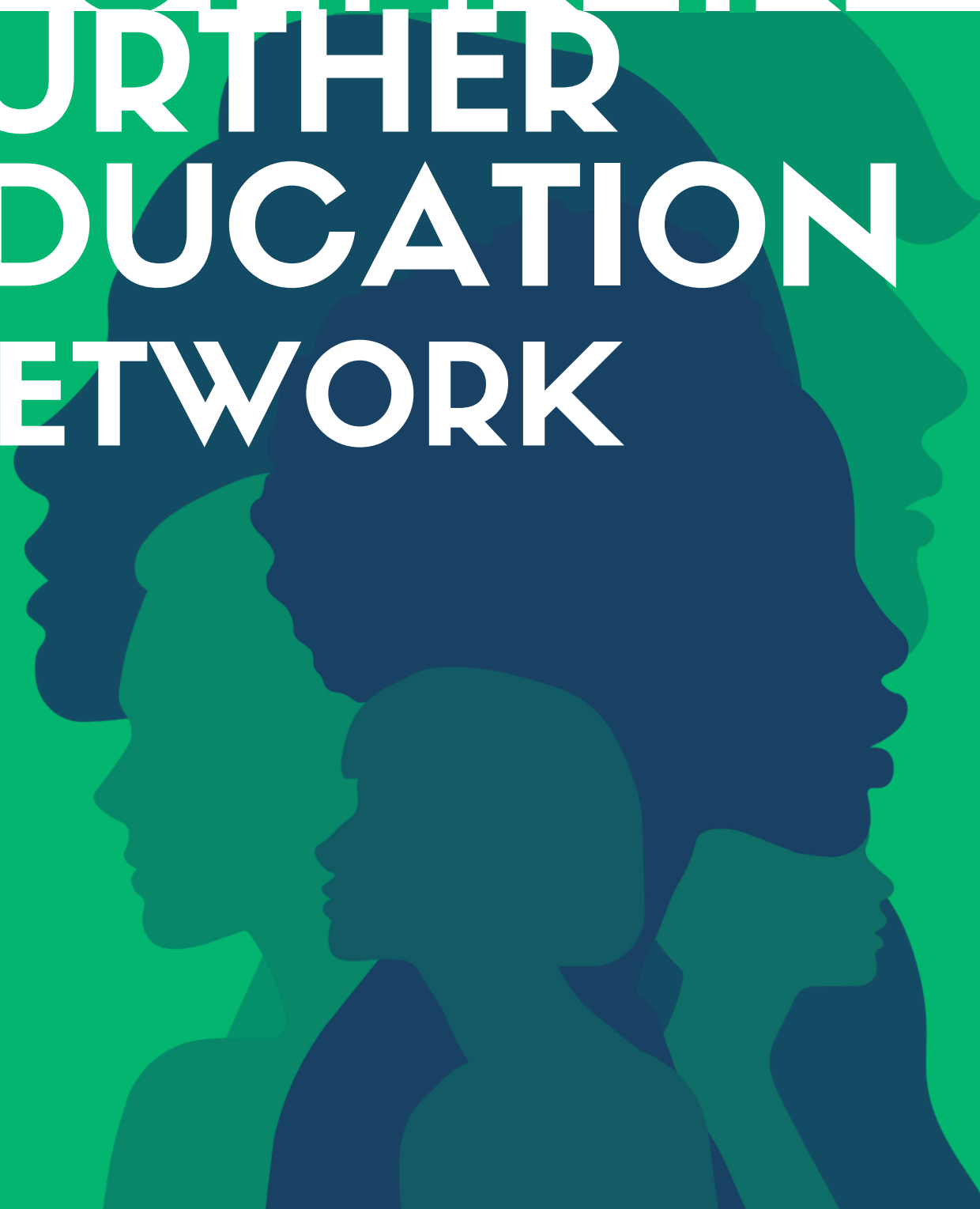




WOMEN IN FURTHER EDUCATION NETWORK



What is the Women in FE Yorkshire (WiFEY) Network?

The Women in Further Education Yorkshire (WiFEY) Network is an inclusive and empowering initiative designed for female-identifying professionals working in the skills and adult education sector across Yorkshire. Inspired by the shared vision of creating a region where women can excel in their careers, the WiFEY Network is a dedicated space for collaboration, inspiration, and positive change.

Our mission is to foster a supportive community that enables women to reach their full potential in an inclusive and equitable environment, where their contributions to education and training are celebrated and amplified.



How does the WiFEY Network work?



The Women in Further Education Yorkshire Network operates as a forum for connection, empowerment, and advocacy within the skills and adult education sector. Our key objectives include:

- **Building connections:** We provide a safe and supportive space for women to share their experiences, challenges, and achievements. Through events, workshops, and forums, members can forge meaningful relationships and expand their networks.
- **Promoting gender equity:** We challenge all forms of gender discrimination, advocating for inclusive workplaces and policies that create opportunities for women to thrive.
- **Sharing knowledge and resources:** The WiFEY Network is committed to sharing ideas, best practices, and research to drive positive change in the sector, ensuring women have access to the tools they need to succeed.
- **Celebrating women in the sector:** Through our events and campaigns, we shine a spotlight on the incredible contributions of women in further education, from trainers to leaders and beyond.
- **Removing barriers to progression:** By offering mentoring opportunities, professional development resources, and advocacy, we aim to break down systemic barriers and help women achieve their career aspirations and earning potential.

Why was the WiFEY Network created?

We also recognise that women are often unpaid carers, shouldering significant responsibilities in their daily lives, including childcare, parent care, babysitting for extended family, household maintenance, and "life admin." These responsibilities, which are historically borne more by women than men, can create additional barriers to career progression and professional growth. The WiFEY Network is committed to addressing these challenges by creating a supportive and flexible environment that acknowledges and accommodates these realities.

The launch of the Women in Further Education Yorkshire Network comes at a critical time, with the government's budget commitment to getting women back into work highlighting the need for more targeted support and opportunities. Women in the skills and adult education sector are pivotal to shaping the workforce of tomorrow, yet many face unique challenges in their careers.

The WiFEY Network was created to address these challenges head-on, fostering an inclusive community that supports and uplifts women at every stage of their career journey.

Together, we can build a brighter, more inclusive future for the skills sector—one that champions the talents and contributions of women across Yorkshire.



Network & Collaboration

We have hosted our first Working Group with a handful of passionate colleagues to ensure the best alignment to the real needs across women in FE & skills. Below is our first official network webinar and statements from two of our working group partners:

"Through my training, I've seen the barriers women face in education and career progression. It's not just about making time—issues like psychological and physical safety, lack of confidence, and undervaluing transferable skills, along with factors such as perimenopause, mental health, and juggling work and home life, make it even harder. That's why I'm pleased to support Women in FE Yorkshire, as a strong network is essential in helping women overcome these challenges and move forward with confidence."

Becky Phillips, Octavia Learning




WiFEY online

Wednesday 2nd April
12.30pm - 1.45pm
via Teams

"Having been involved in FE for over 25 years, it has always been pleasing to see the diversity of Trainers and Assessors in the sector, however, when you attend network meetings the number of women is still relatively small compared to the number of men in Leadership roles. I am therefore delighted to be supporting the Women In FE Yorkshire as we champion the work we do in the sector. It will be great to have a support mechanism and encourage more women to become the Leaders of the future!"

Keely Carleton, National Business College



The Women in Further Education Yorkshire Network is more than just an initiative—it's a commitment to championing women's voices, breaking down barriers, and creating a supportive community within the skills and adult education sector. By addressing the unique challenges women face, from unpaid caregiving responsibilities to workplace inequities, we aim to empower women across Yorkshire to achieve their full potential.

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