**Sustainable Development Health Check for FE institutions**

**Health Check information –**

To support further education institutions with their strategic response to sustainable development, this health check has been developed aligned to the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which highlights the need for education establishments to address growing sustainability challenges. ESD sets the challenge for an action-oriented, innovative pedagogy that enables learners to develop knowledge and awareness of the sustainability agenda and the skills and agency to take action to transform curriculum and society into a more sustainable way.

Across the North we are in a state of climate emergency and education is a key tool to help combat this issue by providing the knowledge, skills, awareness, and action that empowers people to transform themselves and transform societies.

By 2030, it is expected that all learners, of all ages and levels should acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable development includes human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity as well as environment issues. The [UN’s sustainable development goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/) are a useful tool for further exploring sustainable development.

This health check identifies the key challenges and actions set by the ESD agenda so training organisations can assess their current response to sustainability and develop an action plan for enhancing and improving internal practice, curriculum development, learner awareness and staff development in this area.

We can provide ongoing support for the development and implementation of your ESD strategy and action plan, please contact alex.miles@wylp.org.uk.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ESD Theme | Challenge  | Current Response  | Actions to improve / enhance  |
| Teaching and learning  | Using the curriculum and learner experience to develop their knowledge, skills, behaviours and agency contribute to a sustainable future, make informed decisions and take individual and collective action to solve sustainability challenges. Create opportunities that empower learners of all ages to understand & respond to this agenda. Areas to consider: * How is green / sustainability / environment embedded into curriculum?
* How are skills and knowledge in this area developed and expanded?
* What pastoral, personal development or behaviours and attitudes are you developing?
* What teaching / training practice have you identified?
* How are you developing learners’ agency and advocacy skills so they can create change and speak up for causes they care about?
* Do you have any projects and activities for learners to complete for their own lives or with their employers and/or families (such as waste audits, green and lean projects or learner surveys)?
* How do you develop learners’ critical thinking skills so they can reflect their on individual values, attitudes and behaviours as well as lifestyle choices?
 |   |  |
| Operations  | Maximising your organisation’s operations (such as your buildings, systems and processes) to support ESD and enhance your own sustainability performance. Areas to consider:* Do you operate sustainably in terms of your energy, travel, HR, procurement, IT, finance, waste etc.?
* Is this an integral part of quality improvement cycle?
* Do you have a strategy? How far does your strategy go (1 year, 3 years, 5 years)?
* How do you review the impact of your ESD/sustainability work?
* Have you developed any resources that are ‘green’ related?
* Have you made any public commitments to your ESD/sustainability work?
 |   |  |
| Partnerships  | ESD and sustainability is built into partnerships and community activities and used as a vehicle to stimulate innovation, quality and impact.Areas to consider:* What advice or support are you receiving in this area?
* Have you identified and developed local, regional or national partnerships or groups?
* How you are responding to local priorities and action plans?
* Have you review or challenged local councils’ and/or LEP’s on their response to ESD and what support is available for education providers?
* Are employers involved in developing skills or curriculum in this area?
* How are you learning from and sharing with relevant sectors and their sustainability practice?
* Are you considering relevant sector or geographical needs?
* How are you engaging policy-makers and other groups for learners to discuss, share and be involved in?
* How do you use online communities and other communication channels to share messages on the sustainability challenges for our sector, their sector, the locality or region?
* What community engagement opportunities are there?
 |   |  |
| People  | Developing a culture within your organisation, your learners, and in your local community of active interest, commitment and action to embrace values and attitudes that support a more sustainable future and create sustainable solutions.Areas to consider:* How does employer, learner, staff and community voice contribute to your ESD work?
* What are staff CPD needs in this area?
* How have you built ESD into performance and development frameworks for staff and/or employers?
* How are you developing leaders, managers and delivery staff to meet your sustainability goals?
* How does your leadership and or governance team drive sustainability for your organisation?
* How are you promoting and acknowledging sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity?
* Employers to share skills gaps or their plans to transition to Green technologies
* How are you developing sustainability champions?
 |  |  |



****This toolkit was developed by Alex Miles, MD of Yorkshire Learning Providers, Co-Chair of Northern Skills Network, and project lead for the ‘championing sustainability through apprenticeships’ collaborative projected funded by the Education & Training Foundation.