



ANNUAL REPORT

23/24

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Introduction

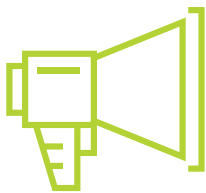
Supporting members through Challenge, Change & Opportunity

Established in 2006, we are a diverse, growing network of over 130 members delivering and operating in the Further Education and Skills sector in Manchester (GM).

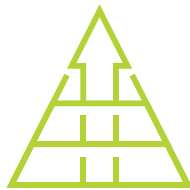
Our Vision

Working with our members and partners, our vision is to help Greater Manchester reach its economic and social potential by supporting and influencing the skills system, through the delivery of vocational and technical skills to enable people to fulfil their aspirations and businesses to achieve sustainable growth.

Our Priorities



Influencing and Informing



Demonstrating the Impact of Vocational & Technical Skills



Facilitating Response to Employer Skills Needs



Capacity Building

Our Values



Promoting Equality of Opportunity



Responding Positively to Change



Representing our Members Fairly



Member and Partner Collaboration



Commitment to the Vocational Skills System

Foreword

Mark Currie - Chair of GMLPN

2024 has been an exceptionally busy year for GMLPN! We have greatly increased our membership to 135 members and significantly increased the reach and diversity of our members.

Network Meetings have been a great celebration of what we all do well. We have changed tack having outgrown the Blackley Golf Club and are now testing out the conference facilities of local football clubs across GM.



The GMLPN team has seen continued growth, and the Network events have had record attendance. Clearly the political events of 2024 have raised everyone's keen interest in what will happen next...its been a roller-coaster of a year!

In the summer we had an election, and a new government was voted in. This will bring with it opportunity and trepidation. Recent meetings with the DfE have been consultative, transparent and collegial. Wanting to hear what needs to be done. They have highlighted the need for us to complete the consultations' that have and will be launched. The industrial strategy consultation closed on the 24th November and we submitted a plea to widen or review the 'priority' sectors. I am at a loss as to how Foundation sectors cannot be a priority.

The implications from the recent budget are beginning to manifest themselves in employer behaviour. The increase in employers' national insurance has challenged many employers to consider replacing people with technology – in fact it has given them a tech budget to use. It is still too early to assess the implications on starts and retention.

The impact to many FE providers will be a reduction in gross profit of 20%. I am sure many providers will be reviewing their staffing levels to recoup the increase in costs from April 2025.

Ofsted completed the Big Listen and published their findings in late summer. Paul Cocker, Senior HMI, highlighted the key findings at the September Network meeting at Bolton Wanderers. I believe these findings have set the cultural tone for the new Inspection Framework to be rolled out in September 2025. To enable Ofsted to achieve this role-out, I wouldn't be surprised if there was a consultation on the proposed new framework in the New Year. Followed by pilot inspections, testing the New Framework, in the Spring.

The new HM Chief Inspector Sir Martyn Oliver addressed the AoC conference in November. He confirmed that single word judgements for college inspections will be removed from 2025.

Other key changes noted were:

- A shift from uncovering failure to improving standards.
- Differentiating between different types of provision, learning environment, and the age of learners.
- A focus on disadvantage, inclusion and removing barriers.

On this last point it will be interesting to see how it can coexist with the Accountability Framework demand for 60% + apprenticeship achievement rate. Surely this will encourage providers to only enrol high performing learners to reduce the risk of learners not achieving.

Minister Jacqui Smith addressed the AELP Conference in Manchester in November. The tone she set was collaborative and all about us meeting the needs of the economy.

Foreword

Mark Currie - Chair of GMLPN

There is a clear message from the Department for Education that devolved budgets are going to expand to meet the needs of local economies. However, I am concerned about which budgets will fund support for the rapidly increasing number of NEET's, now that we know that Foundation Apprenticeships won't be targeted at this section of society.

Our collective connectivity with all the component parts of GM is vital.

The GM Skills Summit in November set the scene for what we can expect next. Working closely with the GMCA, GM Chamber of Commerce, our employers, the CVO's, housing associations and our learners we will identify the emerging skills needs and where necessary adapt our offers to meet this need.

There are several **additional** emerging areas where we can support our local economy, including:

- **COVID Kids**
 - The 3, school year groups (young people born 2003-6) most impacted by the restrictions attributable to COVID 19 are in the process of entering or trying to enter and succeed in the world of work.
 - Many of these young people are behind where they need to be to adapt to this change needed to succeed in work. They haven't developed the relevant skills, knowledge and behaviours.
 - FE colleges have little or no room for level 1 and 2 full time learners.
 - We need to innovate to support these learners
- **Working age adults not working**
 - FE Recruitment and retention – GMLPN continues to work with key stakeholders to attract new entrants to our sector. We launched an FE Jobs Board in partnership with DWP in 2023 to make it easy for Job Coaches to guide potential applicants to FE to retrain, reskill and begin a new career.
 - We need to raise the visibility of the breadth of careers available in our sector.
 - We need to heighten awareness of the entry routes and support that is available to join us.
 - We need to inform the lifestyle changes that the sector offers compared to industry.
- **Functional Skills** – continues to be a problem for apprentices and negatively impacts upon achievement rates. We actively support a review of functional skills to make them more occupationally relevant to the workplaces of our learners. Make functional skills relevant to the chosen occupation. Revise end point tests to being an occupational relevant assessment which the learners and employers can understand the purpose for.

GMLPN will continue to work with members to gather evidence of the impact of policy on learners, employers and providers. It is vital that members continue to support our surveys, polls and research pieces so that we can work together to achieve change.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the GMLPN Board and the Advisory Board who have shared their knowledge to support the development of GMLPN and our members.

Finally, a big thank you to Julie, Matt, Charlotte, Chloe, Sumayya and Amy who have worked hard over the past year to support members and advance the priorities and values of the GMLPN.



Mark Currie | Chair, GMLPN

Welcome

Julie Lappin - Executive Director



As this is my first annual report since joining the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network (GMLPN) in January, I'm excited to share what a fantastic journey it has been thus far. The dedication our members have shown over the past year to empower Greater Manchester residents with new skills has been nothing short of inspiring.

GMLPN continues to play an essential role as a key stakeholder with both the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. This year, the growth of our network has been remarkable, underscored by the need to relocate our network meetings to larger venues to accommodate increasing attendance. Meeting so many of you at these events and visiting you at your centres has been a true highlight for me.

One of our key achievements was the launch of the NEET workshop in March, which brought GMLPN members and Greater Manchester local authorities together to support NEET learners in developing the confidence, skills, and knowledge they need for the future. In July, we were delighted to welcome Mayor Andy Burnham to our biggest-ever network event at Bolton Wanderers FC, an event that celebrated our community's collective progress and potential under new government leadership and the Mayor's re-election.

We closed the year on a high note with the launch of GM Skills, in partnership with our colleagues at the GM Chamber of Commerce, and look forward to hosting our awards gala in July 2025. We're also excited for the upcoming relaunch of GMLPN Professional Exchanges and a bespoke Menopause Ambassador training program for members.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to both the GMLPN Board and Advisory Board members for your unwavering support and guidance over the past year. Your expertise, insight, and dedication has been invaluable in shaping our direction and strengthening our impact in the Greater Manchester FE landscape.

A special thanks also goes to the incredible GMLPN team. The commitment to supporting our members with such diligence and passion is truly second to none, and I am grateful to work alongside such a dedicated group of professionals.

I look forward to working alongside each of you in the coming months to build on our successes and explore new opportunities. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support. Together, we're making a lasting impact in Greater Manchester.

Hear from Our Board

“Over the last 12 months, the GMLPN’s reach and network has continued to expand. It is now the voice of learning and skills in Greater Manchester, bringing together the rich diversity of provision in the City-region, from voluntary organisations to independent training providers to FE colleges and, increasingly, employers and other partners who share our ambition. And, with the establishment of Skills England, changes to funding and qualifications and, potentially, further devolution on the way, membership of the GMLPN remains a must-have.”

Jonathan Bourne | Managing Director, Damar Training

“Another busy year for the network with the departure of Anne Gornall at the end of the calendar year and the welcoming of our new Executive Director Julie Lappin. Not only have we seen these changes within the network, we’ve also seen the political landscape change with the re-election of Andy Burnham and more recently the change to a Labour government. Amongst all of this the network continues to go from strength to strength with highly successful and high profile network meetings, the relaunching of our themed professional exchanges and the introduction of our menopause support programme. The whole team continues to strive to be at the forefront of skills development in GM and beyond to bring the highest level of benefits to our members and I am sure this will continue year on year.”

Nikki Bardsley | Head of Client Solutions & Quality, Kaplan

“Another ever-changing year – most notably welcoming Julie to lead GMLPN; and a new Government – where The Network has been at the forefront of learning and skills for Greater Manchester. Upcoming challenges and opportunities – such as changes to the apprenticeship levy; how people, including our learners, are employed; and the introduction of ‘Skills England’ – should be easily embraced knowing that we have a strong, proactive, collaborative Network to support. I look forward to 2025, especially being able to celebrate & demonstrate the real-life impact of learning and skills, through the reinvigorated GM Skills Awards!”

Daniel Wells | Managing Director, NowSkills

“GMLPN has emerged as an indispensable partner for Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the implementation of the GM LSIP. Collaboration with GMLPN and its network of over 100 members is critical to ensure that the voice of training providers are heard effectively at both local and national levels. GMCC is also committed to working with GMLPN in shaping the Mayor’s vision for an integrated technical and vocational skills system and providing diverse pathways for learners to succeed. In a fast-changing skills and educational landscape, being a member of the network is now more than ever important.”

Subrahmaniam Krishnan-Harihara | Deputy Director of Research and Information Systems, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Influencing and Informing

We have worked hard over the past 12 months to represent members and collaborate with key strategic partners. We ensure that members have opportunity to hear from, and have a two-way dialogue with key stakeholders and policy makers.

GMCA

- We continue to build upon the strong relationship with the GMCA Education, Skills and Work team, which will be evermore so important with the roll out of the Integrated Technical Education System that GM Mayor, Andy Burnham and his team are working hard to put in place.
- We are in the process of setting up Thematic Boards that align directly with GMCA's Thematic Panels. The Thematic Boards will be Adult Skills, Careers, Inclusive Employment, MBacc and Technical Education.
- To support this ongoing conversation, Julie Lappin represents GMLPN on the Executive Board for Education and Skills, the Adult, Careers and Integrated Technical Education Thematic Panel.
- The GMLPN team meet with the Education, Skills and Work team monthly, to ensure partnership working and collaboration.
- We have welcomed number of the GMCA team to our Network Meetings to provide updates to members and will continue to do so going forward.

GMCC

- We have continued to support and collaborate with our partners at GMCC to ensure that the Training Provider voice has been represented in the LSIP that the Chamber team have been working hard on.
 - We jointly hosted a provider and employer roundtable in October 2024 with GMCC to unpack the challenges with apprenticeships from both a provider and employer perspective.
- We are also excited to be partnering with GMCC to bring the GM Skills Awards 2025 – aimed to celebrate excellence across the Further Education and Skills Sector in Greater Manchester – more information on page [xx].
- To support collaborative working, Mark Currie sits on the GMCC Board, and Subrahmaniam Krishnan-Harihara sits on the GMLPN Board.

GMColleges

- We have worked closely with GMColleges over the past few years. This relationship has been strengthened through GMLPN's involvement in both the initial Strategic Development Fund Project, and the Local Skills Improvement Fund Project.
- GMLPN is represented by Julie on the LSIF Board to support this partnership, and meets with GMColleges monthly.

Influencing and Informing

Ofsted

- It's been a busy year for Ofsted with the appointment of Sir Martyn Oliver as new Chief Executive Officer and the launch of the Big Listen, which GMLPN submitted a collective response to.
- We held a roundtable with a number of GMLPN members to provide feedback directly to Ofsted in response to the Big Listen.
- We've made sure that members have had opportunity to feedback and keep up to date with proposed changes as we welcome Paul Cocker, Senior HMI at Ofsted as a regular at our Network Meetings.
- We are planning a number of roundtables to provide additional feedback to Ofsted, focused on Adult Skills, Apprenticeships, Study Programmes, Additional Needs/High Needs.

Department for Education

- We work closely with the Department for Education to ensure members are updated with key policy and strategic changes to the Further Education system.
- We will continue to build upon this relationship as the Labour Government's plans for Skills England are rolled out over the next 12 months.

Supporting the NEET challenge across GM

- In March, we held an initial NEET workshop, welcoming Training Providers, Local Authorities, Careers Organisations, and other organisations who support NEET individuals across GM. The workshop provided space for organisations to come together and collaborate and potential solutions to support the rising number of NEETs across GM.
- We successfully introduced SCL to Salford Local Authority following their request for support to tackle the rising NEET issue over the summer period. SCL were successfully awarded UKSPF funding after successfully applying and worked with The Training Brokers to deliver bespoke short programmes.

Do you want to make sure your views are represented in our conversations with key stakeholders?

*The easiest way to do this is to ensure you are responding to our surveys and information requests! Or if you have a specific issue you would like us to support with, **get in touch!***

Demonstrating the Impact of Vocational & Technical Skills

ASK Programme

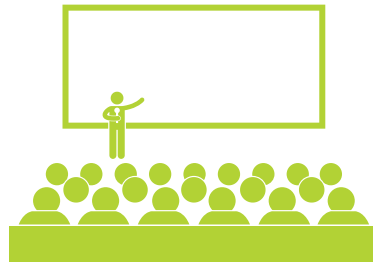
The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools (ASK) Programme has gone from strength to strength!

The aim of the ASK programme, funded by the Department for Education (DfE), is to support schools, colleges and NEET organisations to deliver high-quality information and advice to their students. It aims to raise awareness of apprenticeships and technical education, and can support schools towards meeting the requirements of the Provider Access Legislation (PAL).

During the 2023-24 academic year we:



Engaged **142** establishments



Delivered **560** activities

including assemblies, workshops, careers events & parents' evenings



Delivered to **25,368**

young people in Years 10-13



Registered **2,990** young people on Find an Apprenticeship



Engaged with **2,045** parents

The programme continues into the 2024-24 and we expect to have a similar reach at the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

Demonstrating the Impact of Vocational & Technical Skills

Apprenticeship Workforce Development (AWD) Project

In partnership with NCFE, DH Associates, Kids Planet Day Nurseries, Rochdale Training Associate and Salford City College, GMLPN embarked on a research project, funded by DfE, to support early years apprentices in achieving their Functional Skills Maths (FSM) qualification. The project investigated the impact of using contextualised resources and assessment papers as part of FSM Level 2 delivery within the early years apprenticeship sector. The project had two distinct phases – research and testing.

Research – We surveyed Early Years Apprentices, Early Years Employers and Early Years Training Providers, as well as other Apprenticeship Training Providers who don't deliver Early Years standards. Additionally, we facilitated four Apprenticeship Training Providers Focus Group meetings. These Focus Groups have looked at challenges and potential solutions that would benefit their FSM delivery.

Testing – NCFE developed two FSM L2 assessments that each included both generic non-contextualised maths questions and questions that were contextualised to the early years sector. One assessment was used as a baseline at the start and the second as a final test. The four providers identified a total of 20 learners who undertook the baseline test, received up to 20 hours of contextualised learning and subsequently undertook the final assessment.

The four providers utilised an AI teaching tool – TeacherMatic – to develop their contextualised teaching resources. The purpose of the testing was to ascertain whether learners performed better on contextualised questions when compared to non-contextualised questions as well as the distance travelled between the two assessments to measure the impact of contextualised learning.

The project has now concluded, and we will share the outcomes of the project once they have been made available by ETF.

DELIVERED BY



FUNDED BY



Department for Education

LSIF Project

Funded by the GMColleges, GMLPN have developed a progression pathways tool within the digital, electric vehicle and construction sectors. The pathways tool highlights the routeways through the courses and apprenticeships and identifies routes into, and progression from, new courses developed by colleges through the wider Greater Manchester LSIF project.



Facilitating Response to Employer Skills Needs

SME Project

Funded by the DfE, the project's aim was to support SMEs, operating in the adult care, construction and manufacturing sectors, who hadn't employed apprentices in the past two years. The project provided information on what apprenticeships are, how they work, using the digital Apprenticeship Service, identifying appropriate standards and introducing the SMEs to apprenticeship providers.



Delivered in partnership with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and the Lancashire Workbased Learning Executive Forum, the project engaged with **243** SMEs across Greater Manchester and East Lancashire.

Supporting the Local Skills Improvement Plan

We have worked closely with our colleagues at GMCC to support the GM Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). The LSIPs, funded by the Department for Education, aim to change the way skills provision is delivered by ensuring employers' voices are heard and their skills needs are recognised.



In October, we held a Training Provider roundtable and an Employer roundtable, in partnership with GMCC. The aim of the roundtable discussions were to understand the experiences of both stakeholder groups of delivering and engaging in apprenticeships.

More information will be published in due course and will be shared with GMLPN Members.

[Read the GM LSIP here](#)

[Read the GM LSIP June 24 Progress Report here](#)

Capacity Building

Provider Support Programme

Our Provider Support Programme (PSP) aims to support members through challenge, change and opportunity. We deliver a range of CPD activities including webinars, workshops and in-house consultancy. GMLPN work with a range of sector experts to deliver a high quality, responsive training and consultancy offer.



Over the past 12 months we have supported members covering topics such as:

- AI in Further Education
- Audit & Compliance
- Keeping Learners Safe in the Community in response to the riots that took place across the UK over the summer
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Menopause in the Workplace
- Safeguarding Adults

We have relaunched our Professional Exchange Groups, giving members the opportunity to come together, share best practice, discuss challenges and collaborate. The themes are:

- FE Recruitment & Workforce
- Quality
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Safeguarding
- SEND

We have held the initial exchange in 2024, these will be vital for us to shape the future direction of each group over the next 12 months. We plan for the next round of exchanges to take place in early 2025, with terms of reference being developed for each group.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

GMLPN have represented members on the ETF Mental Health for Leaders Project, managed by AoC for the past 3 years. The main aim is for GMLPN to represent the Independent Training Provider voice and views through the resources, blogs, webinars and podcasts being created.

We've been working closely with our partner Still Human, who specialise in Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Education sector, and will continue to do so into 2025. Julie Liddell, Managing Director at Still Human delivered a Mindfulness workshop at the March 2024 Network Meeting, sharing insights to Mindful practice and impacts of stress.

GMLPN have also funded a Menopause Support Package for members including a Menopause Awareness Session, a Menopause Mindfulness Women's Only Session, and Menopause Ambassador Training. We have trained 18 Menopause Ambassadors across the Network, 3 of those being Male Menopause Ambassadors! We will continue this conversation with the launch of our Menopause Forum in 2025.

We recognise the importance of FE leader, staff and learner Mental Health and Wellbeing and will explore this further in our Mental Health & Wellbeing Professional Exchange Group.

Become a GMLPN Mental Health & Wellbeing Champion here!



Capacity Building

Network Meetings

Our Network Meetings bring together our members and key stakeholders to share updates, insights and feedback. They also provide a great networking opportunity to allow members to build their own networks.

We have held a total of 5 Network Meetings in 2023-24!

Over the past 12 months, we have welcomed a wide range of stakeholders to share presentation updates and share insights through panel discussions, including:

- Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham
 - Sharing GM's ambition for an All Age, Employer Driven, Integrated Technical Education System
 - He thanked GMLPN for being a vibrant network organisation - a forerunner of what GM needs - GM Needs networks and collaboration and recognising the role of ITPs in GM and the agility ITPs can respond with
 - Detailed GM's plans for the MBacc, to provide an equal opportunity to the University route across GM
- We have welcomed key sector representatives including:
 - Gemma Marsh - Director, Education, Work & Skills | GMCA
 - Sharon Kelly - Senior Principal Skills Manager | GMCA
 - Paul Cocker - Senior HMI | Ofsted
 - Ben Rowland - CEO | AELP
 - Laura-Jane Rawlings - CEO | Youth Employment UK
 - Chris Fletcher - Policy Director | GMCC
- NCFE shared plans for our collaborative FAST partnership - to be launched in 24/25
- Panel Discussions:
 - Future Skills in GM
 - Welcoming insights from GMCA, GMCC, Youth Employment UK, Gateway Qualifications
 - FE & Skills System
 - Kaplan, GMColleges, GMCA, NCFE
- CPD Sessions :
 - Mirror, Mirror: What does your SAR process tell you about your organisation's culture? | Delivered by Lou Doyle, Mesma
 - Crafting Your Narrative: Telling Your Story for Ofsted Success | Delivered by Kate Lou
 - An Overview of the Financial Handbook | Delivered by Carole Timperley
 - How you can embed a digital strategy within your organisation? | Delivered by David Redden, NCFE

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our headline sponsors of our Network Meetings in 2023/24



Capacity Building

Multiply Provider Support Programme

GMLPN have been commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to support the Further Education sector with capacity building through the GM Multiply scheme. The Multiply Provider Support Programme aims to support Further Education (FE) Providers to deliver high quality and appropriate maths skills across Greater Manchester.



The fully funded offer includes:

- Online webinars
- In-house workshops
- In-house consultancy support – up to 2 days fully funded
- GM Maths Ambassador Network



The project ends in March 2025, so there is still plenty of time to [get involved!](#)

To date*, we have:

- Engaged **235** individuals
- Over **500** times
- From **83** organisations
- Delivered
 - **11** workshops
 - **23** webinars
 - **7** Professional Exchanges
- Recruited **21** GM Maths Ambassadors
- Launched our online **GM Maths Ambassador Toolkit**



*Figures correct as of the End of September 2024

Inclusive Pathways: Autism Support

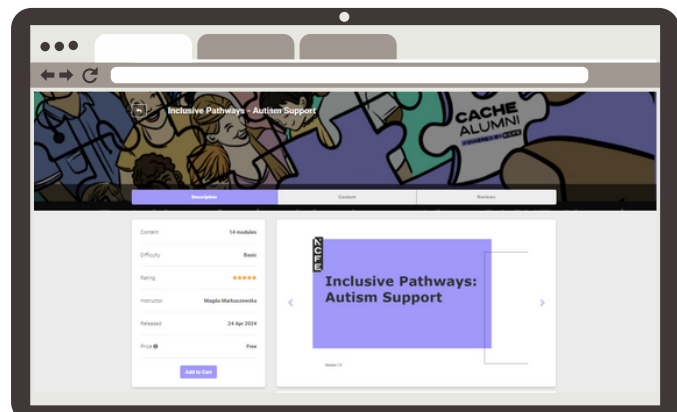
Since 2021, we worked in partnership with NCFE on the Inclusive Pathways: Autism Support Project aimed to support autistic individuals into vocational pathways.



The third and final year of the project saw the development of free online CPD modules [hosted on CACHE Alumni](#).

The CPD modules aim to arm training providers, other education practitioners and wider stakeholders with an overview of autism. The CPD modules include information on:

- co-occurring conditions
- empowering individuals
- a strength-based approach
- funding
- vocational pathways
- case studies from Oldham College, Digital Advantage and NowSkills!



GM SKILLS AWARDS 2025

Brought to you by GMLPN and GMCC

In September 2024, we launched the GM Skills Awards 2025 in partnership with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Bud. The inaugural GM Skills Awards will take place on the 3rd July 2025, at the Manchester Monastery.

We have a range of award categories aimed at celebrating excellence in the Further Education and Skills Sector in Greater Manchester!



HEADLINE SPONSOR



THE AWARDS

- Apprentice of the Year (Level 2-3)
- Apprentice of the Year (Level 4, 5, 6, 7)
- 16-19 Learner of the Year, sponsored by [Gateway Qualifications](#)
- Adult Learner of the Year, sponsored by [NCFE](#)
- Shining Star of the Year, sponsored by [NQual](#)
- Unsung Hero of the Year, sponsored by [Mesma](#)
- Team of the Year, sponsored by [Bud](#)
- SME of the Year, sponsored by [Rochdale Training](#)
- Large Employer of the Year, sponsored by [Pearson](#)
- Community Initiative of the Year, sponsored by [Manchester, A UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning](#)
- Outstanding Innovation of the Year, sponsored by [Coyne Recruitment](#)
- Partnership Project of the Year, sponsored by [The Growth Company](#)

KEY DATES



18/09/24
Nominations
Open



28/02/25
Nominations
Close



w/c 07/04/25
Shortlists
Announced



07/04/25
Tickets
Available



03/07/25
Awards
Evening



We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating with you on the 3rd July 2025!

[Submit your nominations here!](#)

The GM Skills Awards Branding was developed by SENDCode - [find out more.](#)

Membership

Membership Breakdown

135 MEMBERS

100	12	11	7	3	2
Educator Members	Associate Members	Corporate Members	Community Members	Individual Members	Alternative Provision Members

Membership Updates

To better support our members and ensure that we represent them effectively we have introduced a number of new membership categories.

<p>Training Providers including ITPs, FE Colleges, Universities, and more delivering funded training provision in Greater Manchester</p> <p>Educator Member <i>(Full Voting Member)</i></p>	<p>Partners who work in the Further Education sector in Greater Manchester but do not deliver funded training provision</p> <p>Associate Member</p>	<p>Sector Partners who want to work with GMLPN e.g. AOs, service or product providers, recruitment agencies</p> <p>Corporate Member</p>
<p>Voluntary, Community, Faith or Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Organisations that work in Greater Manchester*</p> <p>Community Member</p>	<p>Organisations delivering Alternative Provision in Greater Manchester</p> <p>Alternative Provision Member</p>	<p>Consultants who would like to partner with GMLPN on specific CPD opportunities</p> <p>Individual Member</p>

Looking forward into 2025, we are looking to introduce a school membership to foster greater collaboration between secondary schools and Further Education in GM.

*Dependent on organisation services and offer

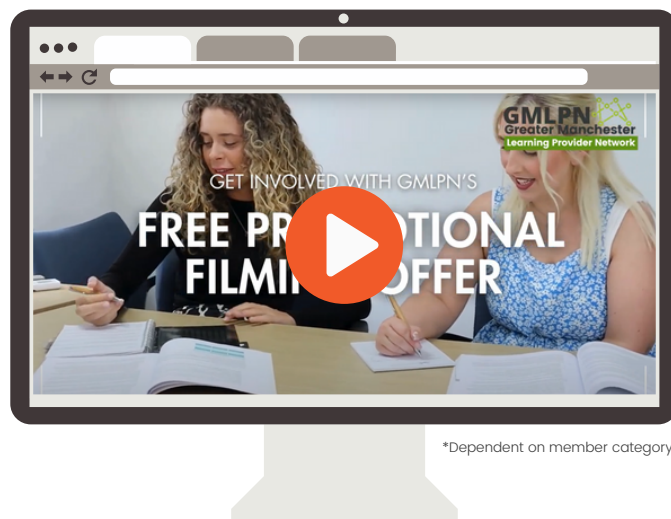
Membership

Membership Updates (continued)

Earlier in 2024, we launched our Promotional Video Filming Offer... Recognising the power of visual storytelling, we're now offering promotional filming services as part of our membership benefits.

We are offering 1 free, 90 second video for each GMLPN member!*

We will be opening the Expression of Interest throughout the year so keep your eyes peeled!



In September 2024, we have unveiled our new GMLPN website, aimed to support collaboration and visibility of our members. Each member has their own dedicated profile page, showcasing their organisation and offer.

In November 2024, we will be launching our member only section of the website, giving members access to exclusive data dashboards, resources and much more!

MEET BUZZBEE – the new GMLPN Mascot!

BuzzBee has been busy buzzing around Greater Manchester!



Membership

Member Benefits

- **Collaborate and build long-term partnerships** with over 130 learning providers and supporting organisations in the FE & Skills Sector
- Be involved in the conversations to **influence and inform** the skills system within Greater Manchester, across the North and Nationally
- Attend **quarterly Network Meetings**, hearing from key sector partners, learning from industry expert insights and network with other members
- Join a **GMLPN Thematic Board**, aligned directly with GMCA's Thematic Panels
- Stay on top of **sector news and opportunities** – receive weekly bulletins with current, and relevant updates
- Get access to **expert support and guidance** through the GMLPN team
- Access to our **member only data dashboards**
- Be part of **Network Wide Research**
- **Discounted rates on our Provider Support Programme** workshops, webinars and consultancy (up to 40% off!)
- Opportunity to receive a **free 90 second promotional video** to showcase your offer, filmed and edited by the GMLPN to match your brand*
- Get involved in **GMLPN Projects**
- **Support promoting your Good News**, Press Releases, Case Studies and more through our well-established communication channels
- Dedicated **page on the GMLPN website**
- Apprenticeship Provision **included in the Apprenticeship Search Function** – used by careers professionals and employers across GM
- **Nominations to the GM Skills Awards 2025** – an opportunity to celebrate excellence amongst your learners, apprentices, colleagues and employers

Want to discuss your member benefits, or not yet a member of GMLPN?

[Get in touch today!](#)



Members

- 1st 2 Achieve Training*
- AAL*
- Acorn Training
- AIM2LEARN Ltd
- Alliance Learning
- Alphabet Training
- ANS Group
- Apprentify
- Ascentis*
- Back 2 Work Complete Training
- Barnardo's*
- Beau Associates
- Bolton College
- Bright Direction Training Limited
- Bud*
- Burnley College
- Bury College
- Bury Council
- BVDE*
- Catch 22*
- Clear Links*
- Cogent Skills
- Cognisoft*
- Competence Development
- Complete Skills Solutions
- Construction Skills People
- Coyne Recruitment*
- Creating Excellence*
- Damar Training
- Dentrain Professionals
- DH Associates
- Digital Advantage
- DMR Training & Consultancy
- EAL*
- Ecta Training
- Educational Services Holdings Ltd*
- Elevated Knowledge Limited
- Eliteform*
- Elysium Training & Consultancy
- EVJ Training Academy*
- Evolve Academy
- Expanse Group
- FLM Training
- FTW Training*
- Funding Futures*
- Gateway Qualifications
- GMCVO
- GMCC
- Groundwork Greater Manchester
- Healthy Me Healthy Communities
- Hopwood Hall
- Ingeus
- Instep UK
- Intuitus Learn*
- iO Sphere*
- Jarvis Training Management Limited
- JTL
- Juniper Training Limited
- Kaplan Professional UK
- Kids Planet Day Nurseries
- Kingdom Academy*
- Learning Curve Group
- LearnTech
- Lite Ltd
- Manchester Adult Education Service
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Manchester Top Team Youth Project*
- Mantra Learning
- Margaret Deary*
- Marketing Stockport*
- Mesma*
- Michael John Training
- Mile College
- MSV Housing*
- Nacro
- NCFE*
- NOCN*
- North Lancs Training Group
- North of England Training
- NowSkills
- NQual*
- Oldham College
- Oldham Council
- OTC
- Oxford Professional Education Group
- Pareto Law
- Pathway First Limited
- Pearson Work Based Learning
- Plato Training UK Ltd
- Positive Steps Oldham
- Pure Innovations*
- Race Ahead Training
- Randstad*
- Realise Training
- Resolve ASB
- Rochdale MBC Skills Team
- Rochdale Training Association
- Salford City College
- SB Skills Solutions
- SCL Education and Training Group*
- Seetec
- Serco Group PLC
- Simian Risk Management
- Smartworks*
- SR Supply Chain Consultants
- Standguide Ltd
- Stockport MBC*
- Tameside College
- Tameside Council
- The Apprentice Academy
- The Blair Project
- The Growth Company – GC Education & Skills
- The Manchester College
- The Northern Care Alliance
- The Training Brokers
- Think Employment Limited
- TMP College*
- Total People Limited
- Trafford & Stockport College Group
- Train'd Up Railway Resourcing Limited
- Training 2000
- Transport Training Academy
- TRN (Train) Ltd
- University of Bolton
- University of Law
- University of Manchester
- University of Salford
- Utilities & Construction Training Limited / 3T
- WEA
- WEC Group
- Wigan & Leigh College
- Wigan MBC
- Works4U – Norman Mackie
- Xyrius*
- YMCA Training

*Joined in 2023/24

Corporate Members

We have welcomed 12 Corporate Member to the Network in 2023-24. We look forward to working evermore closely with them to support our members over the next we months. Click their logos to find out more!



Strategic Partners

We continue to work with our strategic partners to influence and inform the Further Education and Skills system and its impact across Greater Manchester. Our strategic partners include:

- Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)
- Association of Colleges
- Department for Education
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- GMColleges
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Manchester Centre of Voluntary Organisations
- Department for Work & Pensions / Job Centre Plus
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
- Northern Skills Network
- Ofsted
- Plus more!

Northern Skills Network

GMLPN have been a member of the Northern Skills Network (formerly the North West Provider Network) for over 17 years. GMLPN Board Members, Mark Currie and Nikki Bardsley represent GMLPN on the NSN Board of Directors, Julie Lappin is GMLPN's local network representative. GMLPN also provides secretariat support for the NSN.



Key activities include:

- Re-launched the NSN Manifesto identifying the following priorities and values:
 - Priorities:
 - Future Skills Landscape
 - Future Proofing the Provider Base
 - Demand for Skills across the North
 - Advocate, Exchange and Meet
 - Values:
 - Access & Inclusion
 - Careers for All
 - People, Places, Business
- Hosted the Northern Careers Summit in March 2024, welcoming the following speakers, DfE, UCAS, Ofsted, Careers and Enterprise Company, Career Map, Learning Curve Group, Wigan & Leigh College, Appris and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Published A Policy Review into [16-18 Provision and NEET Challenges across the North](#)



GMLPN Board & Advisory Board

We would like to thank the GMLPN Board & Advisory Board for their continued support, expertise and knowledge in shaping the direction of the Network.

Board Members

- Mark Currie | Chief Executive, Mantra Learning (Chair of GMLPN)
- Nikki Bardsley | Head of Client Solutions & Quality, Kaplan
- Jonathan Bourne | Managing Director, Damar Training
- Daniel Wells | Managing Director, NowSkills
- Subrahmaniam Krishnan-Harihara | Deputy Director of Research and Information Systems, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Julie Lappin | Executive Director, GMLPN

Advisory Board Members

- Allan Milne | Director of Business Development and Apprenticeships, Salford City College
- Andrew Turner | WBL Skills & Participation Devt Officer, Rochdale Council
- Donna Graham | Service Lead – Education & Guidance Services, Positive Steps
- Hollie Walsh | Deputy CEO, Healthy Me Healthy Communities
- Jill Nagy | Chief Executive, Rochdale Training
- Jonathan Lawson | Strategic Partnerships Director, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Jon-Paul Rimmington | Managing Director, The Growth Company
- Melanie Nicholson | Managing Director, Total People
- Tracey Wood | Group Assistant Principal Adult Skills and Employer Engagement, Trafford and Stockport College Group

GMLPN Team



Julie Lappin

julie.l@gmlpn.co.uk

07523 039309



Chloe Ramsden

chloe.r@gmlpn.co.uk

07540 464062



Charlotte Jones

charlotte.j@gmlpn.co.uk

07738 621735



Matthew Leigh

matthew.l@gmlpn.co.uk

07530 075650



Sumayya Ali

sumayya.a@gmlpn.co.uk



Amy Brockway

amy.b@gmlpn.co.uk




info@gmlpn.co.uk


gmlpn.co.uk

