NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

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Ofsted Good Provider 2024

North Hertfordshire College (NHC) aims to enhance student learning, improve employability outcomes, and strengthen community and industry ties through strategic partnerships. This strategy outlines the framework for establishing and maintaining partnerships that align with the college's mission and objectives.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Identification: Assess potential partners based on alignment with NHC's vision and objectives.

Engagement: Initiate dialogue with prospective partners through meetings, events, and networking opportunities.

Formalisation: Establish clear agreements outlining shared objectives, roles, and responsibilities.

Implementation: Develop action plans to ensure effective collaboration and measurable outcomes.

Evaluation & Sustainability: Regularly review partnerships to ensure effectiveness and make necessary adjustments

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Collaborate on innovative employer-led projects and a wide range of social responsibility activities, in order to continually enhance the student experience and the reputation of the College regionally and nationally.

- Facilitate guest lectures, mentorship, and career development workshops with employers to inspire and motivate students to develop and achieve their career aspirations.
- Ensure there are work experience and industry placements for all 16-18 year old students with local employers.
- Build on our existing delivery partner and subcontractor base to support and enhance the reach and breadth of delivery, and to build expertise.
- Collaborate with employers to co-design innovative curriculum and solutions that equip students and apprentices with the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed by industry.
- Develop employer-led real-world projects for students to work on which will provide employers with innovative solutions and support the students' development of employability skills.

Nurture strong mutually beneficial partnerships with industry, industry bodies, Hertfordshire Futures, Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce, civic stakeholders, NHS, DWP and other community organisations.

- Foster innovation and knowledge exchange through strategic collaborations.
- Develop joint programmes, credit transfer agreements, and shared research initiatives with the University of Hertfordshire.
- In partnership with local schools, universities, and employer partners, develop meaningful pathways for students.
- Partner with local charities and social enterprises to offer community-based learning opportunities.
- Establish a strategic stakeholder engagement framework by mapping key partners against organisational priorities, assigning senior leadership ownership for each, and fostering high-impact, value-driven relationships to advance shared objectives.
- Develop community partnerships that encourage student volunteering and social responsibility projects, and support students to contribute to community initiatives.

Celebrate and promote our achievements and the positive impact we have on our students, businesses and communities through wider engagement with external regional, and national public relations activities.

- Align all public relations and communications activity with the college's long-term vision and strategic goals to position the institution as a leader in education, skills, and economic development.
- Implement a strategic communications framework with a forward-looking PR calendar that ensures consistent, impactful storytelling across key platforms and stakeholder groups.
- Segment and prioritise key external audiences—including employers, policymakers, and community influencers—to tailor messaging that builds trust, drives engagement, and reinforces the college's strategic value.

Contribute positively to social, cultural and economic regeneration and prosperity of Hertfordshire and the surrounding regions.

- Engage in collaborative funding opportunities to support innovative projects.
- Promote inclusive education by working with organisations supporting underrepresented groups.
- Continue to develop curriculum that is agile and responsive to changes to local and regional needs.
- Work with community partners to increase the amount of place-based Employability provision to support residents of Hertfordshire to develop entry level and essential skills.
- Support employers to understand and appreciate the benefit of investing in entry level talent to increase the amount of opportunities for students to progress to.
- Contribute to the work of local charities, supporting them to raise their profile with students and parents.

Increasing the reach we have with employers across the region, generating new key business opportunities as well as supporting and nurturing the relationships with our existing businesses.

- Build on existing offer to respond to the LSIP needs by relaunching Engineering, increasing the number of students accessing Health, Construction and Digital programmes.
- Offer a recruitment service for employers via a talent pool of 16-18 students to progress to apprenticeships and jobs, supporting the local economy and providing strong progression opportunities for students.

Be seen as a sector leader, enhancing brand recognition and creating and 'NHC voice' that informs, shapes and influences regional and national skills policy and direction.

- Engage with local authorities and policymakers to support regional educational and workforce needs.
- Contribute to local and regional skills strategies.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure that there are holistic solutions for adults.

MEASUREMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Our approach will be underpinned by data-driven insight, drawing on comprehensive analysis of learner outcomes including employment, further education progression, and skills development. This evidence base will be used to inform strategic decision-making and shape provision in line with labour market intelligence. By tracking progression pathways and addressing barriers to sustained positive destinations, we will demonstrate measurable impact and ensure accountability. Critically, this will strengthen our role in reducing NEET levels, directly supporting the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) focus on improving youth outcomes and enabling more young people to access meaningful education, training, or employment opportunities.

CONCLUSION

By fostering strong partnerships, North Hertfordshire College will enhance educational opportunities, drive economic growth, and contribute to the regional workforce. This strategy ensures a structured approach to collaboration, delivering value for students, partners, and the wider community.

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Apprenticeships

CMI Centre

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