

# Education Partnership NorthEast

# Partnerships Plan 2019-25



**H**  
Hartlepool  
SixthForm

**S**  
Sunderland  
College

**N**  
Northumberland  
College

# Introduction

**Our vision is excellence at the heart of everything we do**



Apprentice working at **Sunderland Royal Hospital**

In order to realise this vision as articulated in our Strategic Plan 2019-2025, we must achieve **five Strategic Goals**:

## **Goal 1**

**Shape and evolve a well-designed careers focused curriculum**

## **Goal 2**

**Create outstanding learning opportunities for our students**

## **Goal 3**

**Unite our culture and empower our people**

## **Goal 4**

**Strengthen our financial resilience and invest in our resources**

## **Goal 5**

**Engage locally, regionally and nationally, and build our reputation**

Delivery of the Strategic Plan and the supporting plans is underpinned by our four professional values of:

>  **Authentic**

>  **Respectful**

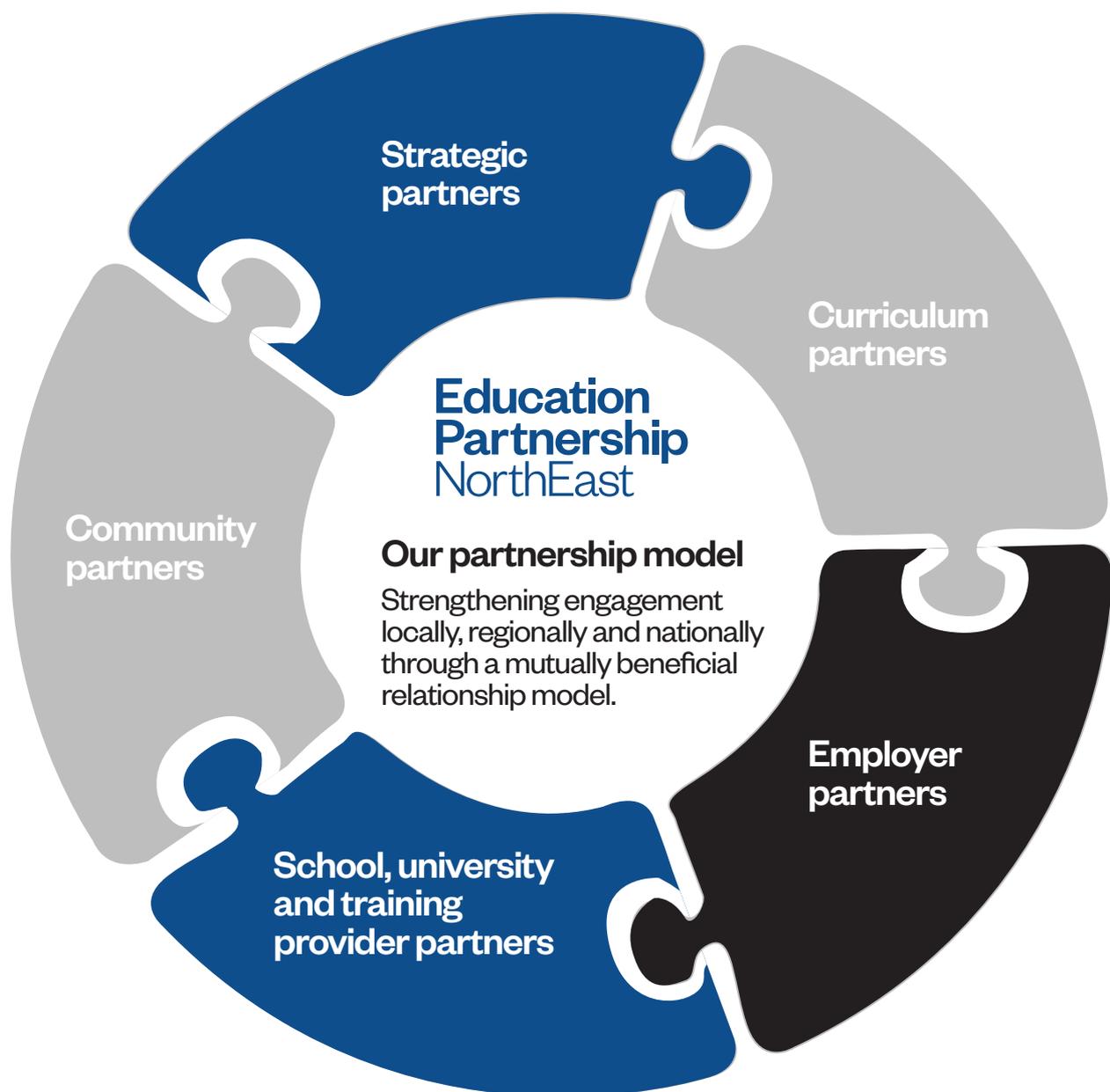
>  **Innovative**

>  **Ambitious**



Apprentice working at **Welding Engineers**

# Our approach to partnerships



**Our Partnerships Plan is central to us achieving our vision of ‘Excellence at the heart of everything we do’ and describes how we will specifically achieve Strategic Goal 5 while supporting the college group in achieving the other Strategic Goals. The Plan sets out a clear intent to strengthen our engagement locally, regionally and nationally, nurturing and sustaining mutually beneficial relationships with:**

- Strategic partners – a partner whose vision, aims and values align to ours and where we collaborate on common civic and wider agendas and mutually beneficial work.
- Curriculum partners – a partner who supports industrial updating and co-designs and delivers a careers focused curriculum enabling students to develop the right attitudes, behaviours and skills for future success.
- Employer partners – a partner who we work with to understand their recruitment and skills needs and design, develop and deliver solutions to meet these needs, driving organisational success.
- School, university and training provider partners – a partner who supports us in raising aspirations and in creating coherent progression pathways for students.
- Community partners – a partner whose community – individuals, groups or members – have a shared interest with us and where collaboration enables both parties to meet their respective objectives.

**Successful delivery of the Partnerships Plan will ensure we become an engaged and influential sector leader with a strong reputation and growing partnerships.**

# Underpinning principles

Students working on a live project with Pop Recs

**Our approach to nurturing new and sustaining existing successful partnerships of varying scales is underpinned by the principles outlined below.**

- Shared objectives and values base.
- Respect for each partners' views and opinions in maintaining positive relations.
- Standing and reputation of both parties is enhanced and sustained.
- Mutual benefits for each partner are identified and realised.
- Strong collaborative arrangements based on a trusted relationship are in place.
- Shared understanding of the time, resources, costs and risks involved.

For strategic partnerships and some employer, school, university and community partnerships, members of the Executive Leadership Team and wider Senior Leadership Team will be actively engaged. The success of these partnerships will also be dependent on effective internal working across the college group.

Where appropriate, the partnerships will be formalised through memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements, contracts and/or shared delivery plans.

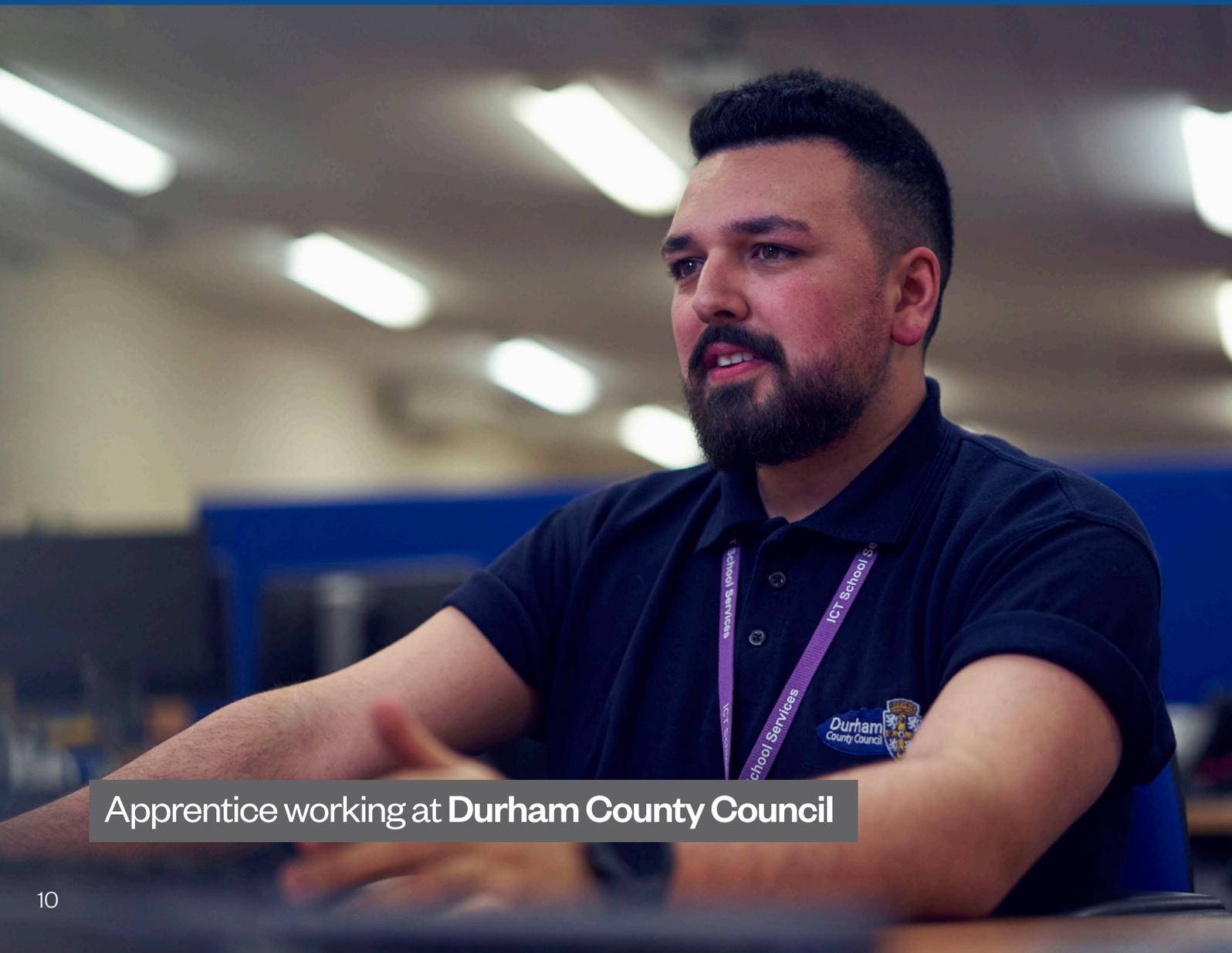
# Aims of our partnership plan

Our Partnerships Plan sets out three interrelated aims.



# Dynamic Economy

We aim to broaden and deepen our partnerships to support individual and organisational success and the North East region's economic ambitions.



Apprentice working at **Durham County Council**



## Apprentice working at **Sunderland Royal Hospital**

### **We will work with our partners to:**

- › Raise aspirations and support inclusive progression of young people and adults through further and higher education and into sustainable careers.
- › Develop mutually beneficial strategic higher education alliances to ensure higher level provision can be locally accessed in geographical areas of need.
- › Sustain strong industry and professional insights into each of our priority curriculum areas to inform curriculum innovation and planning and development of our staff.
- › Strengthen our relationships in sectors of strategic importance through a 'college business centre' approach designed to meet employers' skills and innovation needs.
- › Support inward investment with new employers locating, and existing employers relocating, to key industry hubs near to our campuses across the region.
- › Contribute to the regional economy as an anchor institution through investment in education, employment and local and sustainable procurement.

### **The outcomes will be:**

- › Employable, agile graduates
- › An anchor institution and impactful partnerships

# Thriving Communities

We aim to be a place shaper through active engagement in our communities, instilling a strong sense of place and civic responsibility, and helping to improve quality of life, health and wellbeing, and resilience.



Student on placement



## Apprentice working at **Sunderland Care and Support**

### **We will work with our partners to:**

- ▶ Promote positive attitudes and behaviours on our campuses and pride in our local communities.
- ▶ Create positive social change in our local communities and develop the 'cultural capital' of our students through youth and student engagement in community-based initiatives.
- ▶ Facilitate active involvement of our students, their parents/carers and staff in promoting healthy lifestyles and improving mental health, both within and outside of our college environment.
- ▶ Build strong relationships with the voluntary and community sector and training providers to promote inclusion and address social mobility issues through locally delivered provision.
- ▶ Support those individuals in society most impacted by hardship, ensuring social justice through active student and staff involvement in prevention activity and other charitable and fundraising activity.
- ▶ Engender commitment to achieving net zero carbon and to taking positive action on campus and in our communities to ensure a more sustainable future.

### **The outcomes will be:**

- ▶ Students and staff have a strong sense of place and feel safe
- ▶ Positive social value contribution and impact on our communities

# Influential Sector Leader

We aim to become an engaged and influential sector leader with a strong reputation and growing partnerships, and the preferred choice further and higher education college group for students, staff and partners.



Apprentice working at **Rokshaw**



## Apprentice working at Ashford Orthodontics

### We will work with our partners to:

- › Shape strategies and plans at local, regional and national level and contribute positively to social, cultural, environmental and economic development priorities.
- › Focus on local, regional and national priorities and support and sustain mutually beneficial activities.
- › Raise the profile of the positive impact that our students, alumni and staff have on our communities socially, culturally and economically.
- › Build our reputations as place shapers through amplifying our internal and external corporate communications.
- › Attract, retain and develop a talented workforce in the region and ensure strong, values-based leadership and governance.
- › Influence educational reforms – policy, practice and funding – through representation at regional and national forums.

### The outcomes will be:

- › Strong reputation in our specialist areas
- › An influential sector leader, shaping policy at regional and national level



Students working on live project with Pop Recs

# Implementation and monitoring

The implementation of the Partnerships Plan is led strategically by the Vice Principal – Partnerships & Commercial (Group) and overseen and monitored by the Strategic Partnerships & Communications Group. Curriculum areas and business support functions will operationalise the Plan with priorities agreed through the annual planning process.

The Strategic Partnerships & Communications Group also has responsibility for reviewing existing and approving new strategic partnerships. The Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, is a sub-committee of the Executive Leadership Team and meets bi-monthly.

The Vice Principal – Partnerships & Commercial will report annually to the Regional Board of Governors.



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