

# **REFRESH OF SKILLS4PLYMOUTH PLAN**

# The current Skills4Plymouth Plan



Plymouth City Council has previously developed the Skills4Plymouth Plan 2021-2026. This sets out an ambitious programme with three key objectives:

- To ensure people have the right skills they need now and, in the future, to access employment and progress in their careers.
- To ensure employers and individuals invest in skills and lifelong learning.
- Employers have people with the right skills they need to grow and scale-up their businesses.

This plan has already delivered significant progress, and we are looking for a light-touch refresh to ensure continued alignment

# Refresh of Skills4Plymouth Plan



When refreshing the Skills4Plymouth Plan we will work closely with the existing governance and partnership structures and ensure they are consulted.

- The Plymouth Employment and Skills Board (ESB) will be engaged to identify current and future skills priorities. This board includes representatives from the local authority, local employers and sector networks, Federation of Small Businesses, Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce, Department for Work and Pensions, Devon and Cornwall Training Provider Network, adult, further and higher education, Plymouth Education Board and other stakeholders.
- The ESB will then report into the Plymouth Growth Board to engage and align with the wider business community.

# Refreshed Plan will need to meet the growing demand for labour



- Labour market analysis has estimated the need for an additional 15,000 workers in Plymouth over the next 10 years.
- This will likely impact all sectors in our economy, but some more acutely than others.
- The construction sector is predicted to experience significant additional demand – an independent report estimates the need for 42,000 additional construction workers across the South West in the next 4 years.
- Plymouth's labour market is already experiencing elevated job vacancy demand, with approximately 7,000 unique vacancies over the last 3 months.

# Progress made by the current Skills4Plymouth Plan



## City-wide key skills measures have seen improvement:

- Closing the gap between Plymouth and England-average in both GCSE and A-level attainment rates.
- Improvements to the unemployment rate, now approximately 1% lower in Plymouth than nationally.
- Reduction in the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate and significant improvement in the rate of Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) young people entering education employment or training (up from 72% to 90.4% as of December 2024)

## Local delivery has also grown:

- Skills Launchpad Plymouth has continued to grow, having supported almost 1,000 young people and over 900 adults furthest from the labour market.
- Almost 500 of these have entered employment and over 350 into training, this is above the DWP target rate).
- Oncourse Southwest, PCCs in-house adult education provider have also expanded their reach, supporting over 5,000 adults and young people in 2023/24

# Discovery College

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- Discovery College is an Independent vocational education and training establishment for ages 16-19yrs (SEND up to 25 yrs), based at YMCA Plymouth.
- Combines academic excellence with a supportive, enjoyable and engaging environment.
- NEET specialist college, supporting PCC to help reduce the NEET deficit in the city, which was previously above the National Average
- 100% Of our UCAS applicants achieve their University place



# Discovery College

## #Learn #Achieve #Succeed



- Delivers full time qualifications
- Short Term courses
- SEN specialist provision.
- Great links to a bank of past students who have gone on to HE, FE, careers, other education providers