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Derbyshire County Council Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) UKPRN: 10001928 Local Accountability Agreement AY26/27

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Ofsted Good Provider

Purpose

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) provides learning opportunities that raise aspirations and improve lives and outcomes for those in greatest need of its services, enabling residents to participate in their communities to support the local economy and social growth across Derbyshire.

Service vision

We anticipate and respond to the needs of those individuals, communities, employers, and the local economy in need of its services through the delivery of creative, inspirational, flexible, and high-quality learning opportunities.

Derbyshire County Council Plan

The council sets out within its plan for the period 2026 to 2029 the following vision to:

- **Work collaboratively to improve lives** – partnering with communities, residents, businesses, and other organisations to deliver better outcomes across Derbyshire.
- **Enable safe, healthy, and independent lives** – ensuring children, families and adults are supported, protected, and able to thrive and stay independent.
- **Create great places to live and work** – supporting a strong economy, attractive environments, and accessible, reliable infrastructure.
- **Deliver efficient, high-quality council services** – providing accessible, joined-up services with clear communication and good customer experience.

Context and place

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service, is part of Derbyshire County Council, serves the whole of the county of Derbyshire, except for Derby City, reaching around **5,500 adult residents (just under 8,000 enrolments)** in any given academic year. For 26/27 most adult learning needs will be funded by East Midlands County Combined Authority. The Department for Education (DfE) will be funding the council to provide learning for 200 young people aged 14-19 in programmes across the County. The programme focuses on young people who are identified as NEET, at risk of becoming NEET, in vulnerable groups or with SEN. Derbyshire has 3.2% of 16- and 17-year-olds classified as NEET or unknown . This remains well below both the regional averages for the East Midlands and the wider national average across the UK . The service delivers **14-19 programmes, qualification and tailored**

learning, internships, and apprenticeships. The map highlights the distribution of our learners across the county.

Derbyshire is made up of eight local authority areas (Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North-East Derbyshire, South Derbyshire). There is **no major city in the area and there are several large towns** – Alfreton, Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Glossop, Long Eaton, Ilkeston, Buxton, Swadlincote and Matlock – all of which the service has a major presence.

The service delivers out of **a number of designated venues**, many outreach venues in community settings (e.g., libraries, schools, housing associations, and hospitals) and three hybrid teaching spaces. The 14-19 programme works with multiple partners and stakeholders: employers like Chesterfield Royal Hospital Trust and Amazon; local authority partners like Virtual Schools, Care Leaving Service, Community Connectors, Youth HUB, Adult Social Care and Children's Services, DWP, CAMHS and SEND; schools, colleges, and alternative provision partners for placements and third sector organisations.

Derbyshire is a significantly rural county of 2,547km2 with **a population of around 820,000**, an increase of 0.6% since 2019. Approximately **67% of people live in an urban setting** or urban-with-significant-rural settings, while around 33% live in rural areas. and the county has a population density of 317 people per km2.

The rising cost of living including food and fuel means that some communities in Derbyshire experiences higher than average levels of deprivation and poverty. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the most commonly used measure of deprivation and the 2019 index shows there are **twenty-eight out of 499 small areas in Derbyshire that fall within the most 10% deprived areas across England**. Most of these areas are in the North-East of the county and what had previously been coalfield areas.

There are more than **490,000 people of working age (aged 16-64) in the county**. They represent 61% of all residents, over 2% lower than that seen in England. Since the last census, the number of people of working age in the county has fallen by 1.2%, whereas nationally there has been an increase of 3.7%. Across the districts, only two districts have seen an increase, South Derbyshire, and Bolsover.

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There are nearly **176,000 people aged sixty-five and over in the county**. They represent just over 22% of all residents, 4% higher than that seen in England. Since the last census, the number of people aged sixty-five and over has increased by 23.0% in the county, 3% higher than that seen in England. Across the districts, Chesterfield, Erewash, and Bolsover have all seen large increases.

There are more than **71,500 young people aged 16-24 in the county**. They represent 8.6% of all residents, 2% lower than that seen in England. Since the last census, the number of 16-24-year-olds in the county has declined by 12.6%, 8% larger decrease than the fall nationally, with South Derbyshire being the only district locally to have seen a rise.

Whilst the qualification levels of Derbyshire's residents have improved over recent years, fewer people are qualified to degree level and above compared with England. Derbyshire performs well on educational attainment, although there is considerable variation across the county on these measures. **Attainment at GCSE level is considerably lower in the districts of Erewash, Bolsover, and High Peak** with social mobility also being an issue in some parts of the county.

Across Derbyshire 10% of people have no qualifications. This is higher than the national average. Nearly 25% of people have a qualification below Level 2 which is 3% higher than the national average. The highest levels of residents with no or below Level 2 qualifications are in Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash, and North-East Derbyshire.

Unemployment tends to be 1% lower than the national and regional rate, however, Chesterfield, Bolsover and Erewash have higher levels than the rest of the County. **The average weekly wage in Derbyshire is £740** which is less than the average national weekly wage of £769.50. Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash, and High Peak average weekly wage are below £740.

Around 31,000 children live in families with absolute or low-income. These issues are particularly prevalent in Bolsover, Chesterfield, Amber Valley, and North-East Derbyshire.

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Around **46,600 people in Derbyshire assessed their health to be 'bad' or 'very bad' making up 5.9% of the total population**, higher than the England average of 5.2%. Bolsover has the seventh highest rate of residents with 'bad' general health of all 309 local authorities across England whilst Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire are also in the top 25.0%. Since 2010 Amber Valley and Erewash, the Institute of Health Equity reports that there has been **significant increases in inequalities in female and male life expectancy** in these localities when compared nationally.

Derbyshire is a constituent member of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) which came into being on the 20 March 2024. In August 2025, **EMCCA took devolved responsibility for the Adult Skills Fund** and the Council continues to work with them to develop its impacts with other providers, employers, partners, and stakeholders.

Planning process

The annual **planning cycle commences in October and finishes in May of the previous academic year**. The service conducts a detailed analysis of national, regional, and local priorities, considering the direction of Government policy, regional analyses and information produced by EMCCA Adult Skill Strategic Plan, DCC Policy Unit, key regional strategies (including the Local Skills Improvement Plan), and the Council Plan.

The DACES Senior Leadership Team consider an **initial set of planning priorities**, in partnership with policy and planning colleagues, as part of the self-assessment process in the Autumn Term of the previous academic year.

Curriculum Planning Guidance is produced by the service and approved by the Governance Board. This is the foundation for the programme development team across the county to commence the detailed planning process in December. This provides curriculum intent, market Insights, and the rationale for changes to the curriculum.

In parallel to this, an **analysis of local data is conducted to provide in-depth evaluation of the specific curriculum and geographical needs** across Derbyshire

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to enable the effective targeting of interventions and efficient deployment of Resources.

The programme development team will then produce and refine a curriculum – in liaison with a range of internal and external stakeholder - of very short, short, and extended programmes across 14-19, tailored learning, qualifications, and apprenticeships to progress learners into employment, onto further learning or signpost to other services.

Each element of **the annual programme aligns to one or more of the following strategic outcomes of the service:**

- progress towards formal learning or employment
- improve health and wellbeing, including mental health
- develop stronger communities

The resulting planned programme is scrutinised, challenged, and further develop through an internal review process. **The Senior Leadership Team scrutinise the proportionality of the programme against the outcome themes, curriculum, and geographical need.**

The final plan is submitted to the Governance Board – which includes local councillors and external stakeholders - for further scrutiny in May of each year.

Partnership and co-production

For the plan to be approved, it must be grounded in good research and strong relationships with other teams in the council and with other local partner organisations. This includes County Council services including Public Health, Learning and Talent Development, Libraries and Information Service, Adult Social Care, Commissioning, Virtual School, Special Educational Needs, Early Years, Thriving Communities, and Economic Development to ensure that the programmes the service delivers are responsive to **local priorities and wider determinants of health**.

The **service has a good relationship with regional partners** including D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership through the People and Skills, Young People and Careers Hub. DACES also works closely with other **Adult and Community Learning**

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Providers across the East Midlands Region on joint improvement project development, including Strategic Development Bids, and response to the changing policy landscape, including devolution.

The service is standing member of the **Derbyshire Employment and Skills Group and works the Skills Leads across the District Councils, other training providers** - including the FE college and University of Derby – as well as strategic partners such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Public Health, and the voluntary sector. The purpose of this group is to ensure that provision aligns with local needs and plans and is complementary to the local offer which optimises the deployment of resources locally to the benefit of both residents, employers, and other stakeholders. This has seen the service at the heart of the development of **Youth Hubs** in Chesterfield and Cotmanhay and the **Skills and Creative Hub** in Clay Cross.

The service also works closely with **voluntary sector partners to deliver course and activities to some of our hardest to reach and most disadvantaged communities**. For example, Partnerships have been formed with Community Connectors to support people with learning disabilities into education.

The service works closely with **social prescribers, doctor's surgeries alongside existing mental health service providers** across the county to redevelop the Brightside provision, bespoke learning activity targeted at anyone experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties or emotional distress.

The service also collaborates closely with **local employers, specifically education, early years, and care settings,** providing sector-based work academies in care, retail and construction as well occupational standard qualifications and apprenticeships. The service is the education provider for DFN Project Search Transition to Work Programmes for young people with a learning disability with *Amazon, Chesterfield Royal Hospital* and *Gulliver's Kingdom and has also launched an independent Supported Internship programme in partnership with The Devonshire Group Chatsworth*. The service also provides work-placed training and development in teacher training, assessor, coaching, mentoring, and team leadership skills for the Council and other public sector organisations.

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- **Our contribution to national, regional, and local priorities**

Rationale for Objectives

- Priority Need for Digital Skills and Essential and Transferrable Skills (1&2)
- Priority for Construction and development of L2 curriculum model in line with Post 16 Curriculum Reform (6)
- Enabling safe, healthy and independent lives (1,2,3,4)
- Every Child Achieving and Thriving: Inclusive Mainstream Fund best practice (3&4)
- Work Collaboratively to improve lives (3&5)

Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

1. DACES will support 200 young people to develop and recognise skills that employers need and to participate in personal development, career advice and progression plans as part of their learning programmes.

2. 200 young learners will be issued with an office 365 account which they will use throughout their learning programme to develop digital skills for work and life.

3. DACES will provide 20 places (30% increase) on a Supported Internship programme in partnership with at least 4 employers geographically spread across Derbyshire.

4. 40 teaching and learning staff who work in 1419 will participate in at least 4 hours of CPD activity focused on “high quality adaptive teaching” as part of the Inclusive Mainstream fund

5. DACES will develop a programme of networking and advice sessions for 30 families of learners at DACES with SEND to participate in at least 1 transition networking and advice session each as part of the Inclusive Mainstream fund.

6. 6 learners (600% increase) will undertake level 2 construction programmes as part of 1419 learning.

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Corporation statement:

On behalf of Derbyshire County Council, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Council.

Cllr Simon Mabbott	Mark Homer
Cabinet Member for SEND and Education	**Head of Service**

The plan will be published on the Council's website in advance of the new academic year and accessed through the following link www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation.

Supporting documentation:

- **Derbyshire County Council – Council Plan**
- **Local Skills Improvement Plan for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire**
- **Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy**
- **Derbyshire Public Health - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Report**
- **Every child achieving and thriving**
- **Post-16 pathways: implementation plan**
- **Inclusive mainstream fund**
- **Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan, East Midlands County Combined Authority**
- **East Midlands 2025 Inclusive Growth Framework**
- **DACES Ofsted Report**
- **Derbyshire Observatory - Data and statistics for Derbyshire**

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