Driving Skills, Inclusion & Economic Growth in Surrey (2024/25)

Top 5 Strategic Impacts

1

Stronger Regional Partnerships

We are meeting LSIF Priorities 2 and 3 to facilitate responsive curricula and collaborate with strategic skills leads through our united presence on key decision-making bodies— like One Surrey Growth Board, Post-16 Phase Council, and Surrey Skills Leadership Forum—we ensure the priorities of all four college groups are represented consistently and collectively. This enabled a new consensus approach on tackling the NEET crisis for 2025/26 through the Post 16 Phase Council, aligned to the No-one Left Behind agenda.

2

Kickstarting Economic Growth

The CEO Group enabled high-level collaboration with NHS England, and local employers; to shape a responsive, regional skills agenda and support devolution in line with LSIP priorities 3b and 3e on collaboration and networks. Informed by One Surrey Growth Board, SurreyFE supports curriculum mapping in priority sectors feeding into Surrey Chambers of Commerce employer groups to support curriculum development that meets skills priorities.

3

Driving Excellence in Technical Proficiency

SurreyFE delivered 4 skills competitions with over 130 learners and employers including Kingspan, Wella & PG Media in critical sectors: construction, ethical AI, SEND & service industry – in line with LSIF: Project 3 'drive innovation through peer knowledge transfer'. Competitions raise standards of teaching & learning, motivate learners, develop wider employability skills, promote aspiration and support curriculum to remain aligned to industry needs.

4

Safeguarding Collaboration

By addressing rising safeguarding concerns collectively - particularly around mental health – and sharing best practices for supervision and support, SurreyFE directly contributes to economic development by providing safe working & learning environments, providing consistency across the county, reducing barriers to participation, and improving student welfare whilst raising achievement. This meets LSIF Project 3 to review systems and practices and drive innovation through peer knowledge transfer.

5

Strategic Governance Enhancements

SurreyFE has strengthened governance across the FE sector through joint Governor Summit (Oct 24) and Conference (July 25). In line with LSIP priorities 2 and 3 on curriculum and collaboration this provided a platform for sharing best practice, improved recruitment and space to discuss key national FE issues and core challenges. This impact matters because strong, diverse, and well-informed boards are essential to driving accountability, strategic decision-making, and ultimately better outcomes for learners and communities in Surrey.

2024/25 in Numbers and Our Focus for 2025/26

As place-based anchor institutions employing over 1,700 staff, teaching over 18,000 learners with a collective turnover of nearly £90M, SurreyFE supports economic growth as both employers and learning institutions. 2024/25 marked a period of bold innovation, collaboration, and impact for SurreyFE. Through strategic partnerships and sector-leading initiatives, SurreyFE delivered real change for learners, staff, employers and stakeholders across our county.

£115,000 generated through collaborative bidding and SurreyFE sponsorship opportunities.

£30,000 saved by holding joint events and CPD sessions instead of each college running their own.

850 people participating in SurreyFE community in 24/25 demonstrating purposeful collaboration through specific activity such as skills competitions

Looking Ahead

SurreyFE is poised to deepen its role in shaping Surrey's skills system through:

- **Tackling the NEET crisis** – ensuring no young person in Surrey is left behind
- **Supporting learners with high needs** – strengthening inclusion, safeguarding and wellbeing
- **Driving opportunity in construction** – through skills competitions, employer partnerships, and Surrey-wide curriculum planning
- **Championing inclusion** – embedding equality and accessibility in everything we do

SurreyFE is not just a network—it's a strategic engine for inclusive, responsive, and future-ready education in Surrey.

"2024/25 was a breakthrough year for SurreyFE — one defined by innovation, collaboration, and real impact. Through strategic partnerships and bold new initiatives, we've strengthened regional skills planning, empowered educators, and created life-changing opportunities for learners. These outcomes reflect our shared commitment to driving excellence across further education in Surrey."

— CEOs, SurreyFE