

Inclusion into Further Education

Education Partnership Northeast



Education Partnership Northeast, encompassing Sunderland College, Northumberland College and Hartlepool 6th Form, and proudly stands as a beacon of inclusive education, particularly exemplified through its SEND department (Directions) at Sunderland College. Amidst the challenges of post pandemic, the department not only maintained its commitment to inclusivity but also innovated ways to enhance the learning experiences of its learners with additional need, and parent/carers.

Post pandemic, Education Partnership Northeast went above and beyond typical expectations by swiftly adapting its support mechanisms to ensure that learners with additional needs were not left behind. Recognising the isolation many students faced, they introduced innovative virtual platforms for personalised support, ensuring continuity of learning and emotional well-being. Moreover, they provided tailored resources and remote assistance to enable students to engage meaningfully with their education despite the disruptions. The introduction of coffee mornings serves as a community where parent/carers can get together with each other, parent carer forums and local support networks. In terms of innovation, the Talent Pool programme stands out as a shining example. This supported work experience initiative goes beyond conventional educational practices, providing learners with practical skills and real-world experiences essential for their independence and future employment. By collaborating with local businesses, the programme ensures that learners are equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in diverse work environments, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment. The sustained impact of Education Partnership Northeast's efforts is evident through the continuous growth and development of its learners over the past two years. Through initiatives like Talent Pool and inclusive extracurricular activities such as sports, health, exercise, and creative arts projects, learners with additional needs have not only been

integrated into the college community but have also flourished academically, socially, and personally.