



**OUR
KIRKLEES
FUTURES**

LEARNING SUMMIT
Conference Report 2022



INTRODUCTION

Dear colleague,

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who attended the Our Kirklees Futures Learning Summit on 23 June.

The event was supported by colleagues from across the local education sector, as well as partners and special guests, and was a tremendous success.

The summit highlighted that we all share the same goal of ensuring every learner in Kirklees, regardless of their age or circumstances, is able to aspire, achieve and enjoy the best possible start.

It was a powerful experience, but it's what we do next together that will really count – we are aiming to build quickly on that momentum and the Education and Learning Partnership Board will be looking to approve and share our implementation plan as soon as possible.

A continued partnership approach will be absolutely central to the vision and values of Our Kirklees Futures.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months and years, helping the approach contained within Our Kirklees Futures to become a reality which benefits all learners in the district.

I hope you enjoy reading and reliving the many inspirational moments from that day. For those colleagues unable to join with us – I hope this report gives you a flavour of what we can achieve together.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Jo-Anne Sanders (pictured far right)

Service Director for Learning and Early Support

Cllr Carole Pattison (pictured right)

Cabinet member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities





OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

The inaugural Our Kirklees Futures Learning Summit was held on 23 June 2022 at the University of Huddersfield.

It brought together a full range of education providers, wider partners, local services and expert speakers from the fields of health, education and care to unite behind the ambitions of Our Kirklees Futures – the District's Learning Strategy to 2030.

As well as being an opportunity for networking, collaboration and professional dialogue, a key aim of the day was to operationalise the first step of the strategy and take this from the planning to the implementation stage.

A key element in the success of the summit was ensuring that the day provided both engaging and expert content whilst also delivering a consistent message of the vision, obsessions and actions that form the ambitions of the strategy.

A selection of speakers, both internal and external were approached because of their track record of specialism, lived experiences and expertise in their field. These ranged from professional international speakers to young people and colleagues from Kirklees. One of the main components of the Summit was to provide an opportunity to be inspired by the wealth of talent we have in the area and tie local practice to strategic ambitions. This was certainly the case as we heard from a range of young people who spoke about how they benefit from the inclusive, equitable and resilient practices of people and professionals in Kirklees and how this has allowed them to thrive, succeed and be proud of being a part of a system that values these ambitions.



ON THE DAY

5

**AMAZING
WORKSHOPS**

**NEARLY
200**

DELEGATES

18

**LOCAL
EXHIBITORS**

4

**INSPIRATIONAL
SPEAKERS**

WHAT A WAY TO START!

We were delighted to start the day with the Lindley Junior School choir – a beautiful and uplifting beginning that reminded everyone why we are so committed to improving the lives of all learners across Kirklees.

Thank you to all involved.



OPENING REMARKS

Councillor Carole Pattison, Education and Learning Partnership Board Chair, and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Learning, Aspiration and Communities, officially opened the Summit (pictured below).

She spoke of her delight the commitment and excitement that had been generated for the Summit from colleagues across Kirklees and beyond.

“Today,” she said, “is a wonderful opportunity to discuss, connect and – ultimately – commit to the ambitions of the Learning Strategy. I know you will be inspired by the wide range of speakers and sessions that are available today and I hope you take that inspiration back with you into your schools and settings.”

“In all the sessions our key obsessions of inclusion, resilience and equity will be central themes. A number of our contributors personify these attributes, and I am looking forward very much to hearing their lived experiences, the challenges and also the opportunities that they faced. We will close the day by discussing next steps and how we want to work with you to maintain momentum. We have no time to waste.”

Martin (right) and Mikey (left) spoke with eloquence and passion about the role of school in preparing learners for an uncertain world.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Martin Illingworth

Martin spoke about why young people are 'forgetting school' and succeeding on their own terms and what schools can do to avoid being left behind. He provided thought provoking ideas around what young people really need - to network effectively, manage their finances responsibly, and be digitally proficient and alert to the world around them. If schools do not adapt their provision to nurture these capabilities, he argued, then today's learners will increasingly turn to alternative sources to seek out the education they need.

Mikey Markham

With his gift for incredibly moving and honest poetry, his natural enthusiasm and his passion, Mikey Markham – AKA the performance poet Rhythmical Mike – was an incredibly moving performer and speaker. He transfixed the room with his personal story and the wider topics he covered – often gritty, relevant, real-life scenarios of people trying to fit in but not quite making it, of people who school and wider society may have rejected but who, in turn, have not yet fully rejected society. His passion and compassion shone through, moving many in the audience.

Michael Wardle (Senior Her Majesty's Inspector for Education)

Michael's experience in a wide range of inspection experience and leading specialist settings and area SEND inspections, was particularly valuable as he talked colleagues through the SEND changes and what to expect in OFSTED visits. In addition to discussing types of school inspections, Michael's particular experience in managing curriculum development and implementing quality assurance systems was crucial in outlining how creating a high quality curriculum for learners with additional needs was at the heart of truly great schools.



Musharaf "Mushy" Asghar

The definition of a local lad made good, Mushy held us all in the palm of his hand as he described his learning journey and how the three obsessions of Our Kirklees Futures – Inclusion, Resilience and Equity – resonated with his own experiences.

He recalled how, at the age of five, Mushy suffered an asthma attack which resulted in himself waking up in a hospital. After waking up, he found it tremendously difficult to get his words out. As days passed by, Mushy's inability to speak became worrying. Mushy ended up in the doctor's surgery and this moment changed his life. Mushy was told he would never be able to speak ever again and realised that life would be even more difficult. His story shows the power of relationships in achieving great outcomes as he outlined the support and belief shown to him by his English teacher, Mr Burton. After defying all the odds, Mushy overcome his stammer and, in a heartfelt speech, he talked about the love and affection he retains to this day. Truly an inspirational keynote address (above).

Jo-Anne Sanders (Service Director for Learning and Early Support)

Plenary – what's next?

Jo-Anne reflected back to colleagues much of the learning from the speakers and workshops that had occurred during this amazing day. She stressed the importance of relationships, of the actions that accompany Our Kirklees Futures 'plan on a page' and left delegates with a challenge – to work collaboratively to move the learning strategy from plan to operation. She echoed the words of Councillor Pattison in saying that there was 'no time to waste'.



WORKSHOP 1

Led by Rachael Singleton (Early Years Outcomes Manager) and Charlotte Rayner (Early Years Partnership Manager North Kirklees)

Early Years – Everybody's Business

The key obsessions of inclusivity, resilience and equity start with our youngest learners. No matter what age and stage you influence, this session inspired colleagues. Rachael and Charlotte led the discussion around the importance of early years and the crucial role played by families and carers. Highlighting early years provision is fundamental to the ambitions of Our Kirklees Futures.



WORKSHOP 2

Adele Bates

Equality and Inclusion in Schools

Adele's session revealed why a focus on equality and inclusion links directly to Our Kirklees Futures, along with a positive outcome for staff and pupils' ability to engage and learn. Alongside the theory, Adele shared tools to help colleagues put this in place in their organisation and how to embed it for the long term.



WORKSHOP 3

Mel Meggs (Director of Children's Services)
and Jo-Anne Sanders (Service Director for
Learning and Early Support)

An Exclusion Free Kirklees?

Learners, their families, schools, and colleges should always receive **the right support at the right time by the right people**. Our Kirklees Futures has a stated commitment to move towards a system where every Kirklees child has the best and most suitable provision possible. Exclusions happen when there is no real alternative. Determined to provide that alternative – and begin the conversation with colleagues across the system – this session outlined the ambitions of Our Kirklees Futures, along with what we need to provide that alternative.



WORKSHOP 4

Michelle Ross (Children and young
people's engagement officer)

Listening to Young People Learning in Kirklees

Colleagues listened to the inspirational lived experiences of learners in Kirklees. Personal stories from members of the Youth council, Democracy Friendly schools and beyond were heard along with reflections on what now needs to be done for all learners in Kirklees to reach their full potential.



WORKSHOP 5

Elly Chapple

Flip the Narrative

Over the past five years Elly has developed a unique approach to rebuild her trust in the world and work towards healing her trauma. Elly outlined her journey and the daily learning she employs in the fields of SEND, trauma, education, health, and social care. This was a session that brought together many strands and services directly linked to learners.



CLOSING REMARKS

"I am delighted and proud as Leader of the Council to see so many of you here today for our first Learning Summit. This summit is an example of what we do best here in Kirklees – work together in partnership to make this a wonderful place to live, work and learn.

We are an innovative local area that worked so hard over the past 18 months to keep everyone as safe as possible. Now, together, we are looking to the future of learning in Kirklees, and I hope you have been as inspired today as much as I have been to see the talent and commitment on show. It gives me great hope and optimism for the future.

The importance of working together as a system is underlined by the strategic direction and assurance that the Education Learning and Partnership Board will provide to Our Kirklees Futures, and I look forward to hearing and seeing the genuine difference to the lives of learners that this strategy outlines.

As you will have heard in the workshops today and seen from the numerous exhibitors and teams present, there is extensive work already taking place across all phases of our education and learning systems. This strategy will require investment to make it a reality. Your precious time today is a great example of that investment and commitment, and I am thankful to each and everyone of you for that.

Today is a call to action. I look forward to meeting you again at our Learning Summit next year when we will begin to see the difference to the lives of learners that Our Kirklees Futures is making."

Councillor Shabir Pandor
Leader of Kirklees Council



OUR KIRKLEES FUTURES - 2022 AND BEYOND

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such an amazing day – to all of our speakers, workshop organisers, exhibitors, communication and graphics colleagues and project managers. A special thanks to our event organisers Mondale for all of their help in making the day such a smooth success - Mondale Events (mondale-events.co.uk).

Turning the positivity and inspiration on the day into real action is the next step.

The Education and Learning Partnership Board will be agreeing the initial implementation plan that will outline the actions needed to turn our vision into a reality. The implementation plan will be available to all stakeholders.



We have already begun to plan the next Learning Summit.

The date for your diary is: **Tuesday 27 June 2023**

We very much look forward to seeing you there.



