

ATTFE College 

# #InThisTogether Strategy

March 2024 - July 2026



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# Introduction



Liz Barrett OBE DL  
Principal, ATTFE College



ATTFE College is an anchor organisation serving the communities of mid-Nottinghamshire with lifelong learning. Our Strategic themes and our curriculum are co-created with our valuable stakeholders and partners. This ensures that we are prioritising local need, be it through learning Construction or Counselling skills, as well as improving quality of life with Wellbeing skills.

We are committed to our locality. This is demonstrated on a daily basis from our high street learning initiatives through to operating the Sherwood Observatory Planetarium cafe, as a learning hub to cultivate new skills and provide real life experience. Forty six percent of our staff were ATTFE College learners, which is a powerful statistic that celebrates the gift of lifelong learning, its magic and again our impact locally.

If you would like to learn more about us as a learner, partner or stakeholder then please do get in touch and together we will explore next steps to support you.

Lifelong learning really is where the magic happens!







# ATTFE College Who We Are



**ATTFE College** is a Further Education provider located predominantly within the Mid Nottinghamshire area. We support the delivery of Lifelong Learning and education within these communities, breaking down barriers to support those in most need. We pride ourselves in putting our communities at the heart of our provision, as well as working closely with local stakeholders to ensure we can achieve the greatest impact possible.

During our most recent Ofsted inspection (June 2023) ATTFE College was graded **Good Overall with Outstanding features** for our Adult Learning Provision and Personal Development, demonstrating our holistic approach and the high quality of learning we provide.





## Our Vision

To be recognised as an outstanding provider of Further Education and be the provider of choice of our local communities.



## Our Mission

To bring together people who are dedicated to developing and delivering the highest quality learning, ensuring all learners acquire skills and develop knowledge that equips them to lead more fulfilled lives and play their part in driving up the growth of our local and regional economy.

## Our Values

**Achievement** - Succeeding and celebrating together

**Teamwork** - Listening to staff and stakeholders

**Transformation** - Driving continual improvements

**Flexibility** - Responsive to local needs

**Equality** - Caring for the wellbeing of all staff and learners





### **Our Education Provision includes:**

- A range of **accredited adult learning courses** from Entry Level 3 upwards, available to adults aged 19+ years ,supporting online and in-person learning options.
- A unique **Counselling Course** provision from Level 1 to Level 5.
- **Tailored (Community) learning opportunities**, supporting adults and families to engage in positive lifelong learning to benefit themselves and their families.
- **Programme of Study Provision** for 16-19 year olds.
- Alternative Provision in partnership with Sutton Community Academy and Dukeries Academy.

### **Our Community Provision includes:**

- **ATTFE Community Stars Volunteer Programme** - A programme created to promote the benefits of and encourage engagement in community volunteering, providing a stepping stone to employment.
- **Fun Together** – Supporting opportunities for family learning, encouraging families to engage in positive activities within their local community, including our Fun Together Schools programme which is delivered within Primary School settings.
- **A More Confident Me** – Offering a programme of community learning to support adults age 19+ years to increase their confidence as well as improve their wellbeing, equipping individuals to progress onto further learning and other positive destinations.
- **ATTFE Community Hubs** – Venues located in the heart of communities to provide a friendly and safe space for communities to connect and engage in positive activities, supporting individuals to thrive.
- **Let's All Eat Community Food pantries** – Working in partnership with Let's All Eat CIC, ATTFE College supports the provision of weekly food pantries and social eating opportunities with a mission of reducing food poverty within our communities.
- **Takeover Radio** – A not-for-profit, Ofcom registered community radio station which aims to give young people a voice and celebrate the positive provision available within our communities.
- **Grant funded projects** – This provision is ever evolving. Currently, these include UKSPF Digital Skills and Grow Together Projects, Ashfield School Games Programme and Community Health work in partnership with Your Health Notts.

# Learner Case Study

Joanne Parr



Born in 1979 in Sutton-in-Ashfield, my early years were tough and filled with challenges. I often cared for my younger siblings as our family moved from one home to another, living in places like Whitwell, New Houghton, and Skegness before eventually returning to Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Motivated by faith and the New Cross Community Church community, I began volunteering and supporting others. I worked with FSID, supporting families who had lost babies, even completing training with top professionals in Wakefield. I also collaborated with charities like Sands and Home Start, while regularly fundraising for King's Mill Hospital's baby unit. Together, we raised funds to provide several CONI (Care of Next Infant) boxes, which monitor infants' vital signs and have helped save lives. It was during this time that I met Liz, the Principal of ATTFE College, who introduced me to the pantomimes and plays at Sutton Centre Theatre. Inspired, I enrolled in adult courses to improve my reading, writing, and numeracy skills.

Later, we were welcomed into the Let's All Eat food pantry community, where we attended family meals and made lifelong friends. When COVID-19 struck and everything shut down, I felt called to step up for my community. Together with my family, Linda Smith from ATTFE College, and Liz, we delivered food to vulnerable families. Meeting and helping people during this time was deeply fulfilling and I realised I wanted to do even more.

I eventually became a Church Warden, with encouragement from friends and family who believed I was called to God's work. During a beach mission with Reverend Julie, I felt a clear calling to lead my community with love, kindness, and hope.

However, doubts about my learning abilities held me back. Seeking support, I turned to ATTFE College and enrolled in several courses. Thanks to the encouragement and guidance of tutors like Jo Alais and Linda, I gained confidence and found the strength to keep pushing forward.



With my husband's support, I began formal training with the Church of England and eventually undertook the Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) course. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done, taking two years to complete, but it was also incredibly rewarding.

Today, I am deeply grateful to ATTFE College, Reverend Julie, my church team and everyone who has supported me. I now have the confidence to stand before a congregation, lead services and bring my community together. Recently, I led a Walk of Witness, a remembrance service and a children's and family service.

When I began this journey, I couldn't read or write but I've learned that it's never too late to grow and learn. If you try and give your best, you can achieve amazing things. I am proud to say I am now a Licensed Lay Minister—a testament to perseverance, faith and the power of community.



## Volunteer Case Study

Julie Tagg



After being made redundant from her job, she decided to give back to her local community by volunteering at a food bank. Since then, she has become an integral part of the Let's All Eat food pantry at St John's Methodist Church in Sutton in Ashfield.

Not only has Julie found a sense of purpose and belonging through volunteering, but she has also gained valuable transferable skills and completed training and qualifications.

She encourages others to follow in her footsteps and try volunteering for themselves, as it can open up so many possibilities and provide opportunities to meet new people and be part of a team.



# Community Case Study

Emma



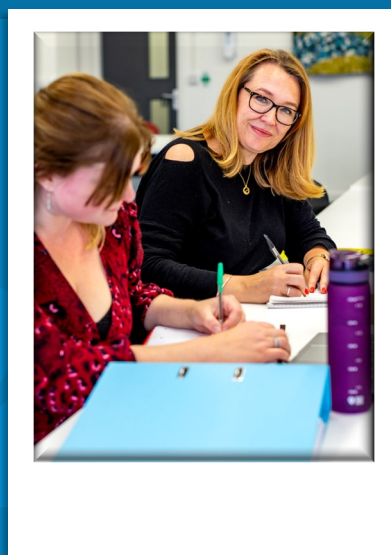
Emma wanted to find a fun and engaging activity to enjoy with her children during the October half-term. She discovered ATTFE College's Paint-a-Pot session and decided to give it a try. The session turned out to be more than just a creative escape—it was an opportunity for Emma to bond with her children while learning new skills.

During the workshop, Emma decorated a plant pot and planted a bulb, discovering ways to bring creativity into her daily life. She shared that these hands-on activities not only sparked her imagination, but also gave her new ideas to engage with her children, fostering their growth and development.

Emma was particularly impressed by Trevor, the tutor, whom she described as “brilliant, very friendly, helpful, and informative.” She appreciated the supportive atmosphere and noted how much she and her children enjoyed the experience.

When asked about her overall experience, Emma didn't hesitate to give ATTFE College five stars! She highly recommends the college to friends and family, saying that the Paint-a-Pot session was an enjoyable and enriching activity for all.

Emma stated that, "Trevor was brilliant—very friendly, helpful and informative!"



# #InThisTogether Strategy Intent



**ATTFE College** prides itself in providing a holistic and inclusive experience for all learners. We recognise that the impact of our work goes beyond educational attainment, with many other benefits provided to the learner and our communities, including improved mental and physical wellbeing and improved social connection to name just a few.

Our **#InThisTogether** Strategy has been developed based on local needs captured from local data and feedback from our communities and stakeholders.

Our **#InThisTogether** Strategy aims to further improve and recognise the role we, as a learning provider can play in many aspects of community life, beyond education and skills, supporting our communities to thrive and shine.

In addition to the above, this new strategy will seek to **build further opportunities for partnership working**. Collaborating with local stakeholders to ensure we have the greatest impact possible will be key to the strategy's success. To ensure we are supporting priorities identified by our key stakeholders, we have made reference the aims and priorities identified in the following Local, Regional and National approaches and will use these as a driver for our work, in particular:

- The East Midlands Combined County Authority Inclusive Growth Commission and all other relevant emerging priorities, plans and strategies.
- The Health Foundation Building Blocks of Health Framework.
- Government and District Council strategies and plans, in particular those with a focus on skills, education, economic regeneration and wellbeing.
- NHS strategies and priorities at both a National and local level.
- Supporting work that positively impacts on Community, Culture, Commonwealth, Climate and Cancer within our communities.

Based on the needs and information summarised above our **#InThisTogether** Strategy will have **6 strategic themes which will outline our priorities and** to guide our Curriculum and Community work for the duration of this strategy.

Supporting **functional and digital skills, as well as Careers support and guidance** will remain at the heart of our work throughout the implementation of these themes.

ATTFE will work hard to ensure that the work that we do is **vibrant, inclusive, full of energy, ambitious and of high impact**. Our work will be directed into the **areas of greatest need** to ensure impact is at its highest and **social mobility** is supported. We will work with key stakeholders to enable this.

The next section of this strategy will outline our 6 Strategic Themes further outlining our Intent, how we will implement this work and how we will measure our impact.



# Strategic Theme 1

## Creating Opportunities for Workplace Wellbeing and Learning

**Poor mental wellbeing costs employers** in the UK an estimated £42 billion to £45 billion annually through presenteeism, sickness absence and staff turnover.

Recent research finds that, on average, there is a **positive return on investment** of around £5 for every £1 invested in mental health interventions in the workplace.

Statistics from [www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/statistics](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/statistics)

### ATTFE College pledges to:

- Develop a robust and accessible offer of wellbeing and learning resources and opportunities for businesses to engage in supporting their workforce, to develop their skills and positively impact on their wellbeing.
- Work with local businesses to further understand their needs and gaps in provision in this area, working together to explore how we can use our resources to support.
- Create a workplace wellbeing and learning network where local businesses can share ideas and resources, access training and support and network with peers.
- Create a network of local workplace wellbeing and learning champions.
- Continue to support workplace wellbeing and learning opportunities for all ATTFE College colleagues.
- Work in partnership with relevant local stakeholders to increase engagement in relevant local health and wellbeing services.



# Strategic Theme 2

## Improving Health and Wellbeing

**In Ashfield 30.8% of adults are physically inactive**

**68.4% of adults and 23% of Year 6 children in Ashfield are overweight**

**Smoking prevalence in Mansfield is 28% This is significantly higher than the National prevalence which is 14.4%**



Statistics from Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership Strategy Be Healthy, Be Happy, 2021—2025 ,  
Towards 2030, A plan for Wellbeing, Mansfield District Council

**ATTFE College pledges to provide community activity and learning opportunities that will:**

- Support communities to have a positive mental wellbeing.
- Provide opportunities for communities to move more.
- Develop knowledge and skills for communities to eat a more healthy, balanced diet.
- Engage communities in positive art and cultural activities to support wellbeing.
- Support opportunities for green prescribing.

**We will also:**

- Explore new methods in evaluating the impact we have on community health and wellbeing.
- Direct our resources and funding in areas of greatest need to support reducing the Health Inequalities gaps that exists within our local communities.



# Strategic Theme 3

## Reducing Food and Fuel Poverty



**13.6%** of households in Nottinghamshire are living in fuel poverty

The 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score for Mid Notts is 24.6% which is **2.9% additional deprivation against the England average** of 21.7%

Statistics from [www.nottinghamshireinsights.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshireinsights.org.uk)

### ATTFE College pledges to:

- Support individuals living in food poverty to have access to healthy, affordable food.
- Develop skills and knowledge to empower individuals to eat a healthy, affordable and balanced diet.
- Seek new partnerships to further support individuals living in food and fuel poverty.
- Continue to support the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme or equivalent, reducing the impact of holiday hunger.



# Strategic Theme 4

## Supporting Children and Families



**28.3% of children in  
Ashfield live in poverty**

**23.8% of children in  
Newark and Sherwood  
live in poverty**

**27.6% of children in  
Mansfield live in poverty**

Statistics from DWP March 2023



### **ATTFE College pledges to:**

- Provide positive and accessible opportunities for families and children to engage in learning and activities within their local communities, positively impacting on their wellbeing and development.
- Support parents/ carers to access learning that will positively impact their children and family members.
- Support opportunities for school readiness.
- Offer support and resources to Family Hubs being implemented across Nottinghamshire.
- Encourage children and families to engage in arts, culture and events within their local community.
- Offer Programme of Study Provision for 16-19 year olds, including personal development, CEIAG and enrichment.
- Consider how we can support to bridge the current gap in the childcare sector workforce.
- Provide learning opportunities for individuals working with or looking to work with children and young people, building skills and knowledge to support them and act as positive role models.
- Continue to support Takeover Radio, giving local children and young people a voice.



# Strategic Theme 5

## Creating Inclusive Communities

**23.5% of residents living in Ashfield North (PCN) report having a limiting long—term illness or disability**

**23.2% of residents living in Sherwood (PCN) report having a limiting long—term illness or disability**

Statistics from: Ehs phm Outcome Dashboard

### ATTFE College pledges to:

- Offer an inclusive curriculum for all learners.
- Increase the number of residential and Services for Independent Living Venues that we deliver learning in, making lifelong learning accessible for all.
- Develop partnerships with new and relevant stakeholders, creating more inclusive communities.
- Support opportunities for people with SEND and Long -Term Health Conditions to engage in sport, physical activity and wellbeing opportunities.
- Consider how we can better support unpaid carers and young carers.
- Consider how we can provide lifelong learning opportunities for people living with Long Term Health Conditions.



# Strategic Theme 6

## Supporting Community Volunteering



### **Volunteering provides many benefits to individuals including:**

- Developing skills, knowledge and experience to progress into employment.
- Building confidence.
- Giving back to the local community.
- Positive impacts on mental and physical wellbeing.
- Improved social connections.

### **ATTFE College pledges to:**

- Promote the benefits that volunteering can bring to individuals and communities.
- Encourage and empower individuals to engage in volunteering, providing a pathway to employment.
- Provide a meaningful programme of training for local volunteers to develop their skills and knowledge.
- Explore opportunities to deliver a learning and networking programme for community/ not-for-profit business or groups within the Mid Nottinghamshire area.







## Our Commitment to Partnership Working

ATTFE College recognises that we cannot achieve our ambitions alone. Our #InThisTogether Strategy aims to build on the current and existing partnerships we have with local stakeholders to ensure that we can achieve the best impact possible for our communities. To support this, we will encourage our stakeholders to pledge their support to the work of our strategy.

We will continue to work in partnership to further explore gaps and needs within the identified strategic themes and our communities, working collaboratively in the process.

In order to effectively engage with our stakeholders, we will continue to deliver our **annual Stakeholder Engagement events**, as well as distributing our termly **Stakeholder newsletter**. We will continue to gather stakeholder voice on a regular basis.

If you would like to pledge your support or discuss opportunities for partnership working, please contact us **InThisTogether@attrust.org.uk**

**#InThisTogether**

## Measuring Our Impact

Measuring the Impact of our work is important. In order to measure the impact of our #InThisTogether strategy, an action plan will be developed which can be viewed at **www.attfe.org.uk**

Impact achieved against the actions identified will be captured on a termly basis using both qualitative and quantitative measures.

We will continue to gather Learner and Stakeholder Voice during the implementation of this work.





## My Notes



# #InThisTogether



For more information about our strategy or to learn more about ATTFE College, feel free to email us at [InThisTogether@attrust.org.uk](mailto:InThisTogether@attrust.org.uk). Don't forget to explore our website and follow us on social media for the latest updates and opportunities!



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