**The Northern College**

**Public Benefit Statement**

**Introduction**

As a registered charity the Northern College for Adult Residential Education is committed to demonstrating the benefits its work provides for individuals, communities and the wider public. This statement sets out the aims, mission and strategic objectives of the College, outlines the beneficiaries the College serves and the impact and benefits of the learning opportunities it provides. The document should be read in conjunction with the College’s Strategic Plan and Community Strategy.

**Our Aims and Objectives**

The overall aim of the College as set out in its Memorandum of Association is ‘to advance adult education, particularly by the provision, organisation and arrangement of full-time or part-time courses of study or educational research, whether or not leading to any formal qualification.’ The College mission builds further on this overall aim and is to ‘provide outstanding adult residential and community education for the empowerment and transformation of individuals and communities’.

The College delivers this mission though its strategic objectives which include:

**Identity and Distinctiveness**

* To be at the forefront of educational and social transformation by providing residential and community learning opportunities.
* For individuals, which challenge, raise aspiration and achievement and cause learners to question and evaluate, to play a full part in a changing society.
* For communities, to engage with excluded groups and support the regeneration of communities, to promote social inclusion and community cohesion.
* For community and trade union activists, to support the development of skills and understanding to further the aims and social purpose of their organisations.

**Partnerships**

* To develop and sustain productive partnerships with trade unions, voluntary and community sector groups and organisations, local authorities and employers, which support the development of individual and group skills and aspirations and further both the college mission and partner organisational objectives.

**Innovation**

* To be imaginative, creative and enterprising: open and responsive to new areas and ways of working to further the mission of the college.
* To work in innovative ways which celebrate and draw upon the experience and knowledge of staff, students and their communities, sharing expertise and learning from each other.

Through these activities the College meets its charitable objective of the advancement of education.

**Our Beneficiaries**

The College is dedicated to the education and training of:

* Men and women who are without formal qualifications and are seeking to return to learning.
* Those who are active in community and voluntary groups and trade unions.
* Adults from disadvantaged groups and communities and professional up skilling for those who work within these groups and communities.

Residential education allows the College to draw its learners from the region and across England based on its specialism.

**The Public Benefit we provide**

The College is committed to ensuring that the residential and community learning it delivers:

* Improves the qualifications, skills and employability of the groups and individuals it engages in learning.
* Benefits in other areas of public policy, for example in enhancing health and wellbeing, reducing dependency on public services, supporting families and up skilling volunteers.
* Transforms the lives of individuals which in turn contributes to the development of cohesive and resilient communities.
* Supports the regions need to up-skill its adult population and address issues of social deprivation, poverty and economic inactivity.
* Added value to the activities of communities and trade unions.

**How we measure the benefit we provide**

The College measures the impact of its work in a number of ways, primarily using data which is measured against internal performance indicators (PIs) and where possible against external benchmarks and by the measurement of social value of adult learning.