THE KWP LTD NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

The KWP Ltd is a relationship-led consultancy working across education and skills. We help organisations navigate complexity and turn ideas into action, creating the conditions for honest dialogue, effective collaboration and shared solutions.

Our work spans policy, strategy, research and evaluation, supporting colleges, sector bodies and partnerships to clarify priorities, strengthen leadership and improve outcomes for learners and employers.

If you are looking for insight, facilitation or strategic support that brings clarity and progress, we would welcome a conversation.

COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

The College Collective Impact Report 2025

This year's Impact Report captures how collaboration translates into practice across the sector.

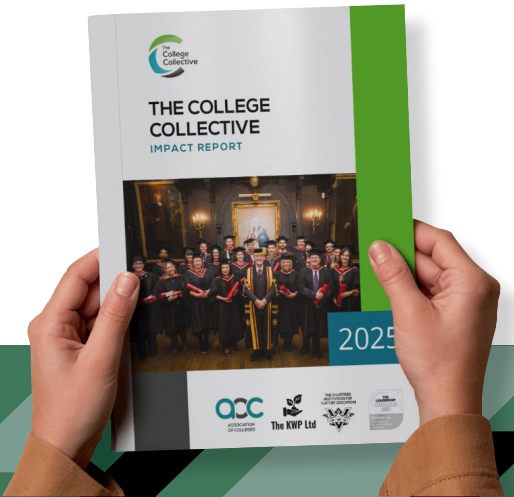
Colleges reported increased confidence in leadership decisions, improved cross-department working and stronger links with employers and partners.

Across the network:

- More than 40 colleges participated
- Over 30 Action Learning Sets were delivered
- Nearly 1,000 staff engagements took place through coaching, events and workshops

The report shows how shared discussion leads to practical change, from behaviour approaches and safeguarding to leadership and curriculum development.

You can read the full report on our website at thekwp.co.uk



FE AND INNOVATION

Evaluating the Greater Manchester Further Education Innovation Programme.

The Greater Manchester Further Education Innovation Programme was designed to strengthen the role of FE colleges within the regional innovation ecosystem. The KWP Ltd was appointed as independent evaluator from the outset.

Our approach was partnership-led. We worked alongside colleges, employers, apprentices and delivery partners to capture lived experience, not just outputs.

What the evaluation revealed

- FE colleges acting as trusted connectors between businesses and innovation
- SMEs growing in confidence to engage in innovation activity
- Apprentices empowered to contribute ideas within their workplaces
- Stronger relationships between colleges and employers

The evaluation also showed FE colleges often reach businesses and learners who do not normally engage with innovation support. SMEs described innovation less as a technical concept and more as practical problem solving.

The findings informed an academic research paper, *Reaching the Parts Others Cannot*, exploring how FE contributes to inclusive growth and place-based innovation.

Importantly, early impact was often relational. Confidence, trust and new ways of working mattered as much as measurable outputs.

The KWP Ltd continues to support learning and improvement as the programme develops, combining close partnership working with academic rigour.

GREATER MANCHESTER COLLEGES Innovation

THE IMPACT OF POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR TRAINING

When behaviour is managed confidently and consistently, colleges become safer, calmer and more supportive places for everyone. That is the difference The KWP Ltd's Promoting Positive Behaviour training continues to make across the sector.

Our workshops are practical, interactive and immediately applicable. Staff leave with clear tools for early intervention, confident communication and de-escalation strategies that work in real-world settings. The focus is simple: act early, act calmly and build positive culture together.

Measurable impact

In a recent whole-college programme involving over 400 staff:

- Professional services teams reported confidence rising from 6.0 to 7.6 out of 10
- Teachers' confidence increased from 6.8 to 8.1
- 96 per cent of participants at Wiltshire College rated the training good to excellent

These figures represent more than numbers. They reflect staff feeling more prepared, assured and willing to intervene constructively.

96%

of participants rated The KWP Ltd's behaviour training **good to excellent**

Whole-college rollout:

400+

staff trained

What colleges are saying

"Interactive, fun and above all gives people simple practical techniques for positive challenge and de-escalation."
West Herts College

Wiltshire College staff highlighted the focus on body language, psychological reframing and practical techniques that change day-to-day interactions.

At **Bournemouth and Poole College**, the training formed part of a whole-college approach to behaviour and inclusion, supporting both teaching and student services teams so responses are consistent across campus.

Why it works

Warren McKeown brings over 30 years' experience in policing and violence reduction. Simon Barrable's extensive FE background ensures the training reflects the realities of college life.

For colleges seeking measurable gains alongside meaningful cultural change, KWP's Promoting Positive Behaviour training delivers both.

Find out more, email enquiries@thekwp.co.uk at thekwp.co.uk

CELEBRATING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Chartered Institution for Further Education Admissions Ceremony.

It was a real honour to attend the Chartered Institution for Further Education Admissions Ceremony at Apothecaries' Hall.

We were proud to celebrate a number of College Collective Experts who became Associates of the Institution, alongside Barnet and Southgate College being admitted into CIFE membership.

Shelagh Legrave CBE DL was recognised as an Honorary Fellow, and Ken Merry, Principal and CEO of York College, was named as a Fellow.

It was a proud moment for the sector and a meaningful celebration of professional excellence in further education.

LEADING LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The KWP Ltd has played a central role in shaping Local Skills Improvement Plans across the country.

We supported the LSIPs for Thames Valley Berkshire and Oxfordshire, engaging thousands of employers and providers in partnership with the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce. These plans have been recognised nationally as examples of good practice.

Our role included designing employer engagement, analysing labour market intelligence and working directly with colleges to ensure the plans were credible and deliverable.

Building on this, The KWP Ltd delivered the national LSIP evaluation for the British Chambers of Commerce, supporting 17 Chambers and influencing national policy insight.

More recently, we have been commissioned to support LSIP delivery in the Liverpool City Region.

Our strength lies in combining policy understanding with lived FE leadership experience. This enables us to translate strategy into practical, deliverable action.

National LSIP evaluation delivered on behalf of 17 Chambers.

THAMES VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP

AI IN PRACTICE

College Collective: The AI Network

In December, The KWP Ltd supported the first in-person Wisdom of Colleges AI event, bringing together colleagues from across the sector.

The focus was practical application, exploring how AI is supporting different areas of college life, from the classroom to central services.

Michael Webb from Jisc delivered the keynote, sharing practical insight into developing responsible and effective AI strategies.

Colleges including Bournemouth and Poole, Coleg Cambria, Glasgow Clyde, Hopwood Hall, Middlesbrough, MidKent, Sandwell and Suffolk shared lightning talks covering:

- Digital learning design
- Chatbot development
- AI literacy
- Marketing applications
- Workload reduction

Feedback reflected the value of cross-sector collaboration.

"A really worthwhile and interesting event. I loved the mixture of colleges and roles."

"Thanks for organising and hosting this event. It was great to meet colleagues from across the sector."

The day reinforced the power of shared learning and open dialogue.

AI event brought together colleges from across England and Scotland.

STRATEGY WITH SUBSTANCE

Evidence-Led Planning in Partnership

The KWP Ltd is currently supporting ETC in developing a strategy rooted in place, people and purpose.

Working alongside Quadrant-Insights through the KWP Alliance, this approach combines lived FE leadership experience with specialist expertise in research, data, digital transformation and future risk.

What makes this different

- Deep engagement with staff, students, governors and employers
- Structured workshops and surveys that move beyond consultation
- Evidence-based planning aligned to measurable improvement
- Forward-looking digital and policy insight

This approach avoids consultation for its own sake. Stakeholders can see their experience reflected in decisions, strengthening ownership of the strategy.

The result is not simply a strategy document. It is a shared direction shaped by evidence and owned by the organisation.

If your college is reviewing strategy or preparing for reform, we would be pleased to talk.

Email enquiries@thekwp.co.uk

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to discuss any of the work featured in this newsletter, or explore how The KWP Ltd can support your organisation, we would love to hear from you.

Email: enquiries@thekwp.co.uk
Website: thekwp.co.uk
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