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Training and Development  
Opportunities for the Voluntary and  
Community Sector in the  
North East

Executive Summary



Project North East would like to thank the members of the voluntaryskills.com reference group for their continued support and encouragement throughout the development of the project.

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## **Executive Summary**

The focus of this report is to communicate the results of a recent Project North East study, and to set out the relevance and importance of the findings. A data capture exercise of voluntaryskills.com website data sources was undertaken by Project North East on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004. This was carried out to ascertain the nature and extent of training and development available for the voluntary and community sector throughout the North East of England.

The findings are initially presented within a regional context, which provides a useful overall picture of provision. It is revealed that the subject areas most commonly available in the North East are IT, Business & Management and Personal Development, with Social & Community Development having the lowest availability. The majority of available courses (64%) are accredited, with the most frequently available course levels being levels 2 and 3, and levels 4 and 5 being the least frequently available. It is also evident that the most significant providers of training and development opportunities for the sector in the North East are higher/further education establishments, followed by private companies. The higher/further education establishments dominate the provision of higher level courses.

Further breakdowns of the findings are then presented to highlight sub-regional trends. IT and Business & Management are the subject areas most commonly available in Durham, with Social & Community Development having the least frequent provision. 70% of all courses in this sub-region are accredited, and again courses at levels 2 and 3 appear to be most frequently available with levels 4 and 5 relatively low in provision. Opportunities in Durham are predominantly offered by the higher/further education establishments, and in this sub-region HE/FE are the only providers to offer training at level 5.

In comparison to the other sub-regions Northumberland has the least overall provision. IT and Personal Development are the most commonly available subject areas, yet there is no one subject area distinctly less available than any other. Courses at levels 2 and 3 appear the most frequently available, with provision of levels 4 and 5 very low in Northumberland. Most courses (70%) are accredited, and training is most widely offered by higher/further education establishments and voluntary/community organisations. The only providers to offer courses at levels 4 and 5 in Northumberland are the higher/further education establishments.

The Tees Valley area offers more opportunities in the IT and Personal Development subject areas, with no one subject area clearly less available than the others. 69% of courses are accredited, and the most frequently available course levels are 2 and 3 with levels 4 and 5 less widely available. Higher/further education establishments, followed by private companies, offer the most provision within Tees Valley. The provision of higher level courses is again dominated by the higher/further education establishments, with no other provider type offering level 5 training in Tees Valley.

Tyne & Wear is the sub-region which offers the largest number of opportunities overall. The most commonly available subject areas are IT and Business & Management, with Social & Community Development having the least provision. 61% of courses are accredited in this area, and courses at levels 2 and 3 are again most frequently available with levels 4 and 5 having the least provision. The most significant providers of opportunities in Tyne & Wear are the higher/further education establishments, alongside

private companies, both of which are generally responsible for the provision of higher level courses.

The final sub-section of findings to be presented is that of 'distance learning' and 'other'. This category classification includes on-line learning, custom training conducted 'on demand' as well as courses carried out by individual providers at various locations throughout the region. It involves information on training and development opportunities which have no specific geographical identity yet are still accessible to the voluntary and community sector in the North East. The most commonly available subject areas are Business & Management and IT, with Administration the least available subject area. Only 34% of the training in this 'distance learning and other' category is accredited, and courses at levels 2 and 3 are most frequently available with levels 4 and 5 least frequently available. The opportunities offered in this category are predominantly provided by voluntary/community organisations and private companies, with the small number of level 5 courses available provided by voluntary/community organisations.

This report provides information concerning the current availability of learning and development opportunities for the voluntary and community sector in the North East. It is envisaged that it will be useful for a number of voluntary and community organisations, intermediaries and the public sector as it gives a breakdown of course subjects, accreditation and distribution, and presents an opportunity to further explore the match between need and availability. The findings could be used in conjunction with research studies aimed at finding out what training is needed by the sector, to help clarify where further provision would be beneficial and encourage more complete provision for the sector.

Project North East has undertaken this study as part of our ongoing investigative work into career progression pathways for people in voluntary and community groups. We intend to use the information gathered in this report to contribute further to the planning and implementation of our capacity building programme for the sector.

## Appendix 1

Availability of Subject Areas

Table 1 - Regional

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	261	798	273	257	219	267	296	1086	608	145

Table 2 - Durham

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	59	133	69	54	61	42	57	253	83	31

Table 3 - Northumberland

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	26	27	35	25	21	17	17	100	96	24

Table 4 - Tees Valley

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	61	148	41	57	42	111	127	268	226	42

Table 5 - Tyne &amp; Wear

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	113	369	106	104	83	72	81	415	187	26

Table 6 - Distance Learning &amp; Other

Subject Area	admin	b&m	c&p	c&c	fin	h&c	h&s	it	pd	s&cd
Number of Courses	2	121	22	17	12	25	14	50	16	22

Availability of Course Levels

Figure 1 - Regional

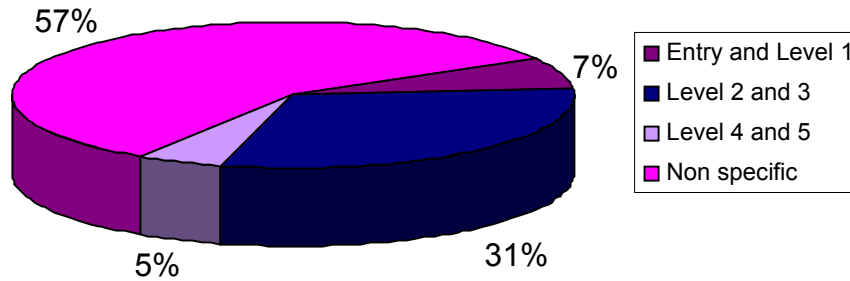


Figure 2 - Durham

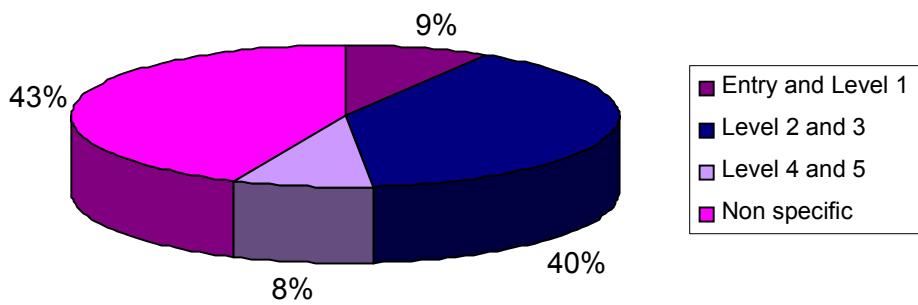
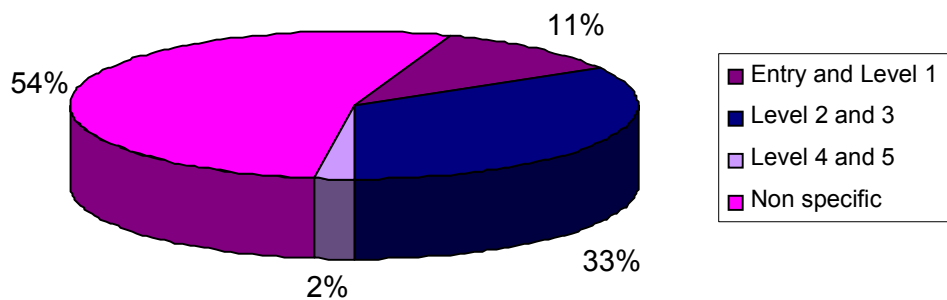
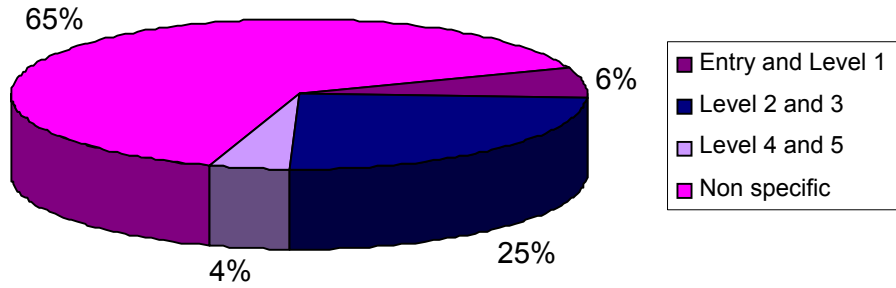


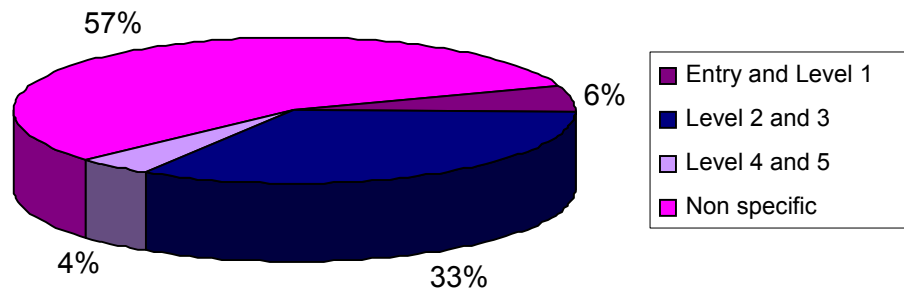
Figure 3 - Northumberland



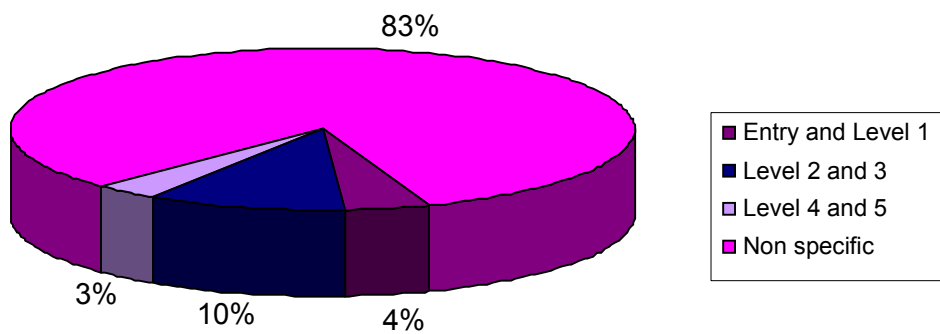
**Figure 4 - Tees Valley**



**Figure 5 - Tyne & Wear**



**Figure 6 - Distance Learning and Other category**



## Appendix 3

Availability by Provider Type

Table 1 - Regional

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	720 (17%)	2194 (52%)	288 (7%)	1008 (24%)

Table 2 - Durham

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	133 (16%)	556 (66%)	82 (10%)	71 (8%)

Table 3 - Northumberland

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	94 (24%)	222 (58%)	52 (13%)	20 (5%)

Table 4 - Tees Valley

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	102 (9%)	572 (51%)	102 (9%)	347 (31%)

Table 5 – Tyne &amp; Wear

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	228 (15%)	795 (50%)	39 (3%)	494 (32%)

Table 6 – Distance Learning &amp; Other

Types of Provider	Voluntary/Community Organisations	Higher/Further Education & Schools	Public Sector Organisations	Private Companies
Course Numbers	163 (55%)	49 (16%)	13 (4%)	76 (25%)