



MAYOR'S
SKILLS
ACADEMIES
CREATIVE



CITYLIT

INSPIRING PASSIONS · REALISING AMBITIONS

Accountability Statement 2024-25

City Lit's Social & Community Approach

City Lit's purpose is "Bringing people together to enrich lives through learning."

The highest quality learning is the core of what we do, but we deliver more than just knowledge and skills, we also 'bring people together': working to build communities and enhance physical and mental well-being. We believe that the opportunity City Lit gives for individuals to learn and mix with people from a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences is a key part of the way in which we enrich lives; the value of this positive experience of a diverse community is so important. We create social and community wealth as well as giving an outstanding educational experience. We are passionate about this work.



Our Purpose: Bringing People Together to Enrich Lives Through Learning

Goals

- **Goal 1:** Our students at the heart of everything we do
- **Goal 2:** Our commitment to excellence
- **Goal 3:** Delivering social and community value

Deliverables

- Enriching individual lives, communities and society. Giving support at different life stages
- A curriculum strategy which enables our students to realise their potential
- We contribute to improving our students physical and mental health and well-being
- Widening participation expanding national reach
- Enhancing government and mayoral relations and partnership working

Pillars

- Our People
- Our Teaching & Learning
- Our Learning Environment
- Through a sustainable business and financial strategy

Quality of Provision

City Lit was recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding provider in May 2023

Overall effectiveness	outstanding
The quality of education	outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	outstanding
Personal development	outstanding
Leadership and management	outstanding

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The college makes a strong contribution to meeting skills needs. Leaders and managers have a good understanding of the skills needs they meet. They work very effectively with stakeholders, who value the role that the college plays in offering flexible, accessible and relevant courses that meet a varied range of needs within the capital and beyond. Leaders, managers and staff ensure that the curriculum remains focused on both the skills that employers need most, and the skills that individuals need to gain and remain in employment.

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Judged “strong” for skills

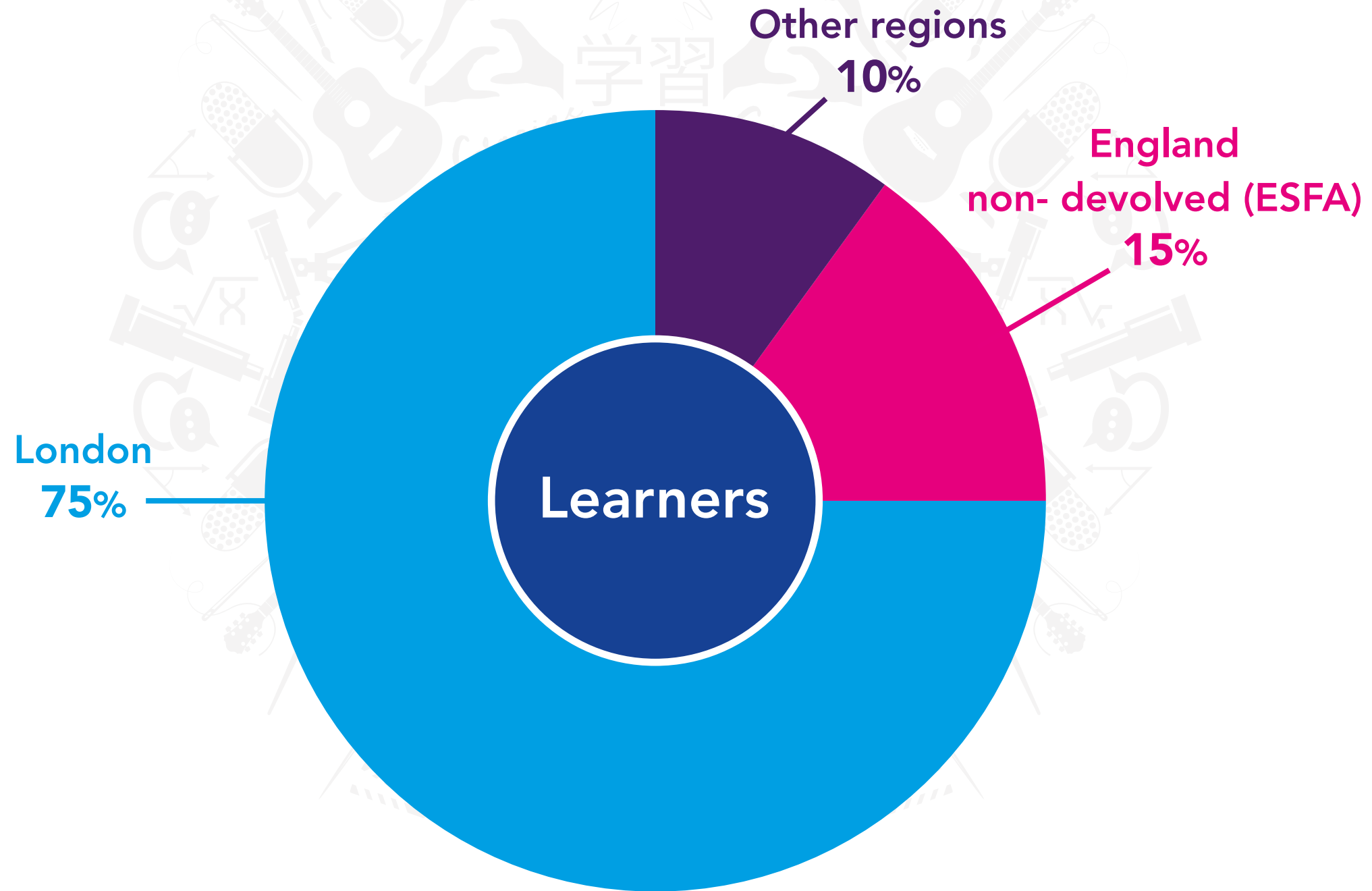
"Ofsted's acknowledgement of your strong contribution to meeting London's skills needs and your focus on opening up adult education provision, for example through your offer to deaf and hard-of-hearing Londoners demonstrates our shared commitment to delivering on my ambition."

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



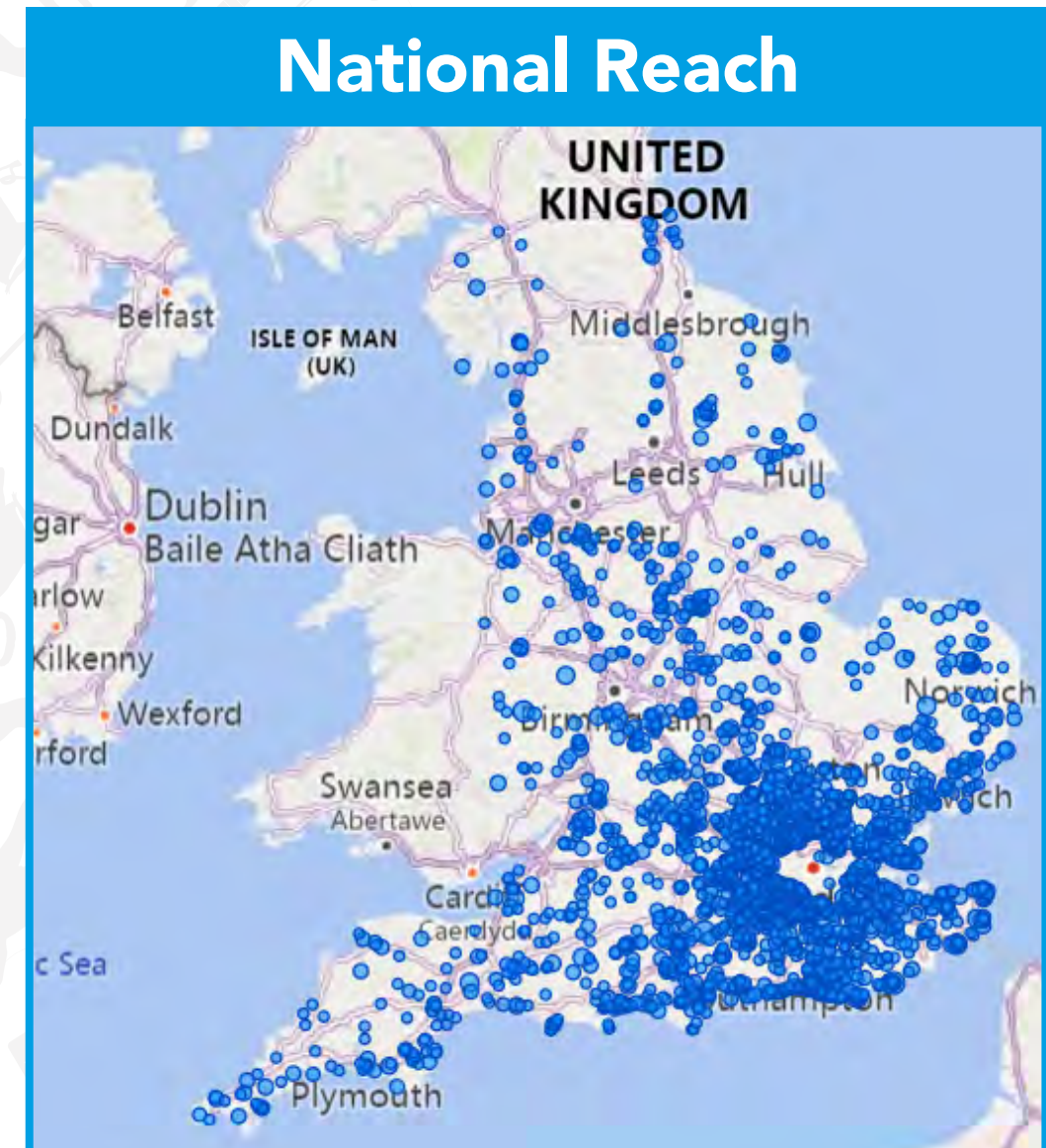
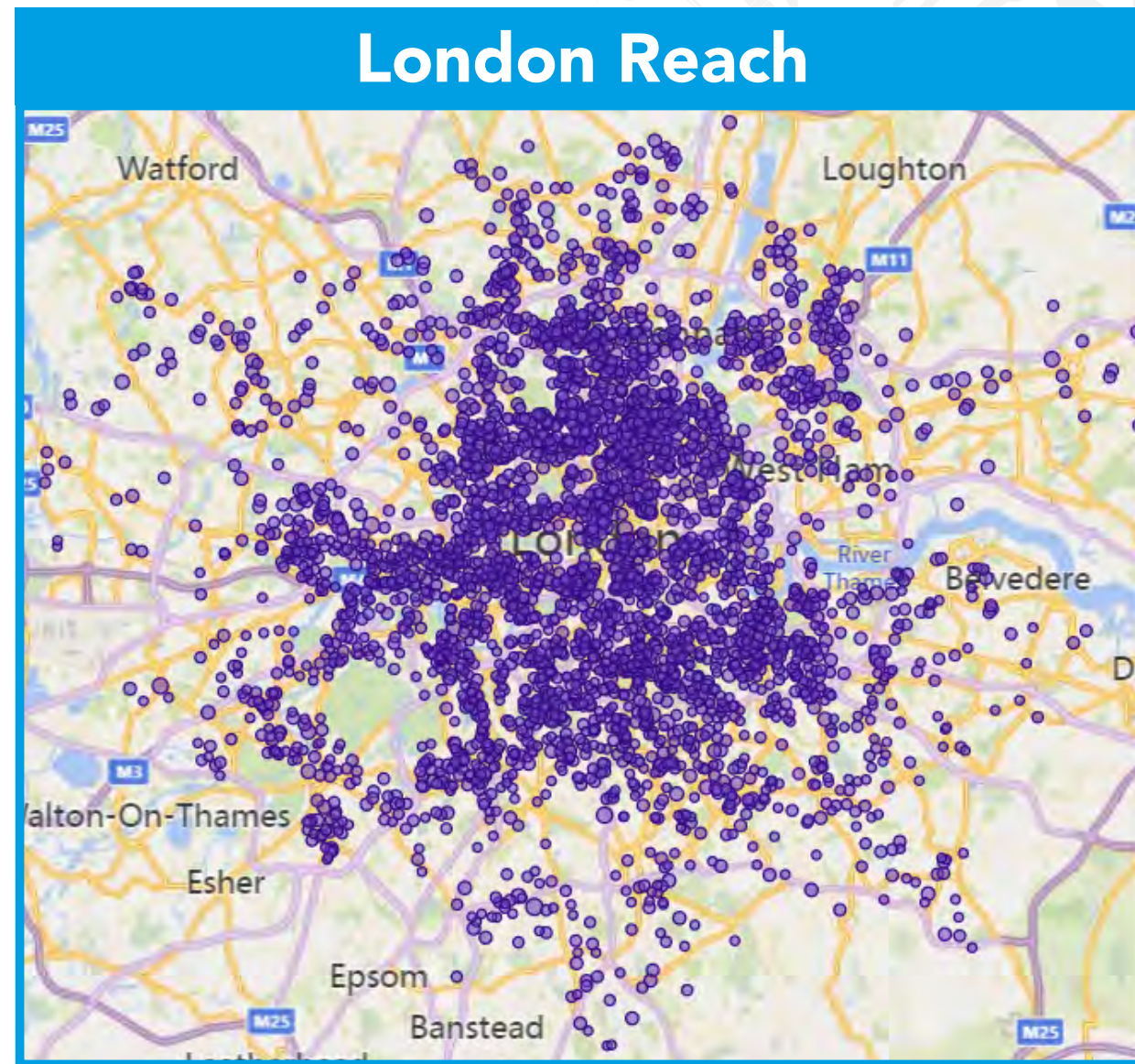
Context and Place

We are Europe's leading adult education provider. Located in the heart of London. We serve nearly 17,000 Londoners, almost 3,500 learners from ESFA non-devolved areas, and over 2,000 other learners nationally.



We Attract Students from Across London and Beyond

City Lit has pan-London reach, with students coming from all 32 boroughs. City Lit, as a member of our local Employer Representative Body (ERB) - 'BusinessLDN', we work proactively together to implement the London Local Skills Improvement Plan.



Serving Learners Beyond London

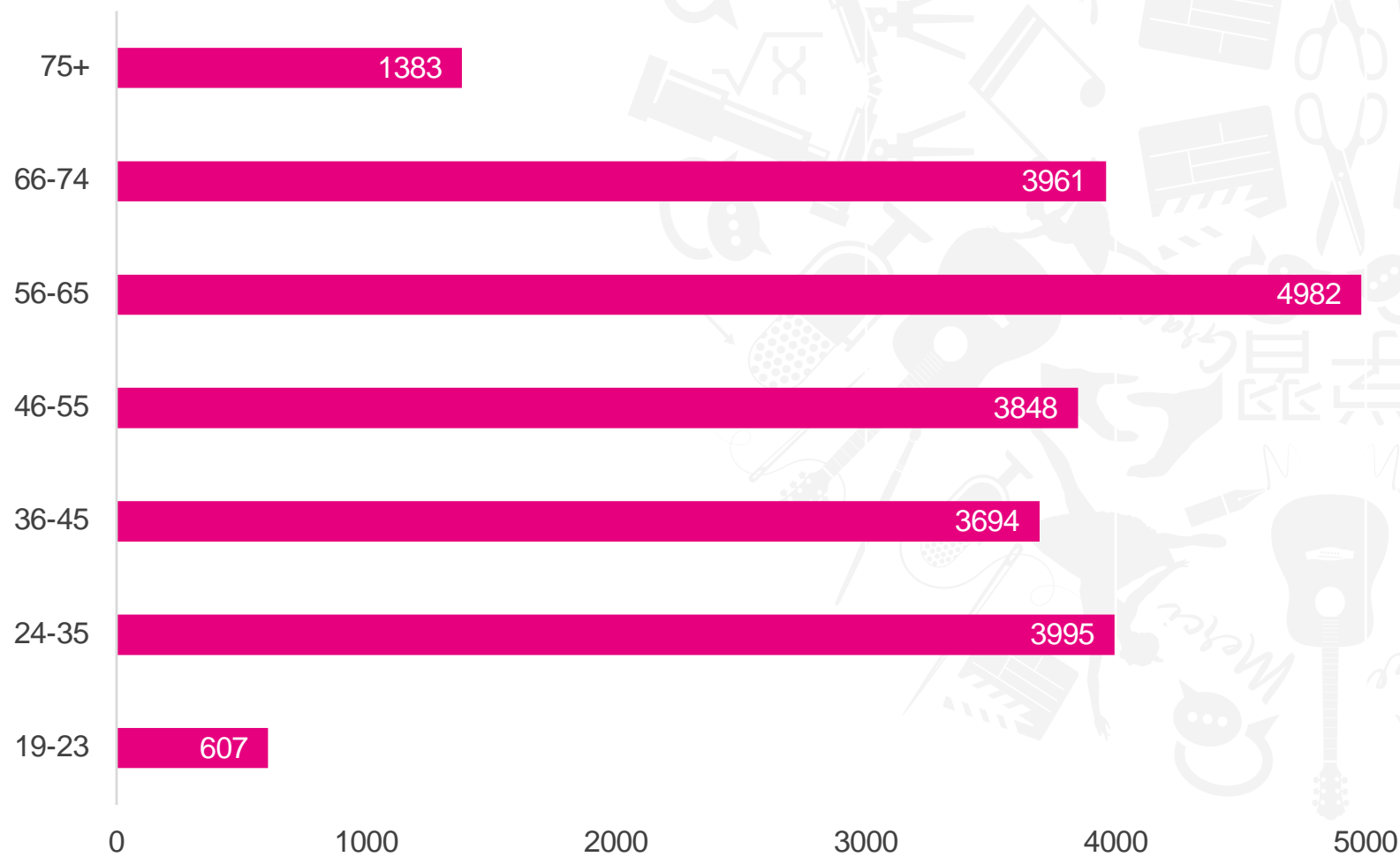


City Lit serves nearly 5,500 learners living outside of London. These learners will access learning through either our extensive range of synchronous online courses, or by travelling into London to access in-person learning. Many of these learners work in London as commuters, attending evening classes after work.

Our Learners By Age

As an adult college, our learners range in age from 19 to later life, including some students in their 80s and 90s.

Given the diversity of our student base, we have people who are: unemployed; self-employed; in early stages of employment; have careers they wish to enhance; looking to change their job or career; volunteers; and those who are retired but still want to self-develop and contribute to society. Skills acquisition ranks highest in our learner intent and outcome statistics.



HRH The Princess Royal



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It is particularly encouraging to see how people of all ages and backgrounds come together at City Lit to challenge themselves and transform their lives. If education can be defined as 'training for life', then lifelong learning and its ability to unlock potential throughout people's lives should be accepted as part of life.

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Why City Lit...

- We are inclusive with subjects, levels and being open and accessible
- Open seven days a week, from 8am to 10pm
- The quality of our teaching, delivered by experts and practitioners who are leaders in their field
- Our arts provision has launched the careers of many artists, writers and actors
- Our internationally renowned Centre for Adult Speech Therapy
- Our annual Mental Wealth Festival – partnering with the Mayor of London, Corporation of London, Royal Opera House, National Gallery, Mind, Age UK and the Samaritans
- Deaf Day - in its 26th year is the biggest national event for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community
- Our portfolio of over 30 languages at different levels, including Cornish, Hungarian, Hindi and classical languages such as Biblical Hebrew



Why City Lit...

We adopt a broad definition of "skills"

We have a focus on the creative industries

We have a specialised School of Skills Employment and Well-being

"City Lit supports tens of thousands of Londoners to pursue and achieve their aspirations and gain the valuable skills needed to progress into further learning, access good work, participate in their local communities and lead happier, healthier lives."

Many students progress to higher education and further study

We support those embarking on second and third careers

We also have expertise in areas of specific disadvantage

Jules Pipe CBE
Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills

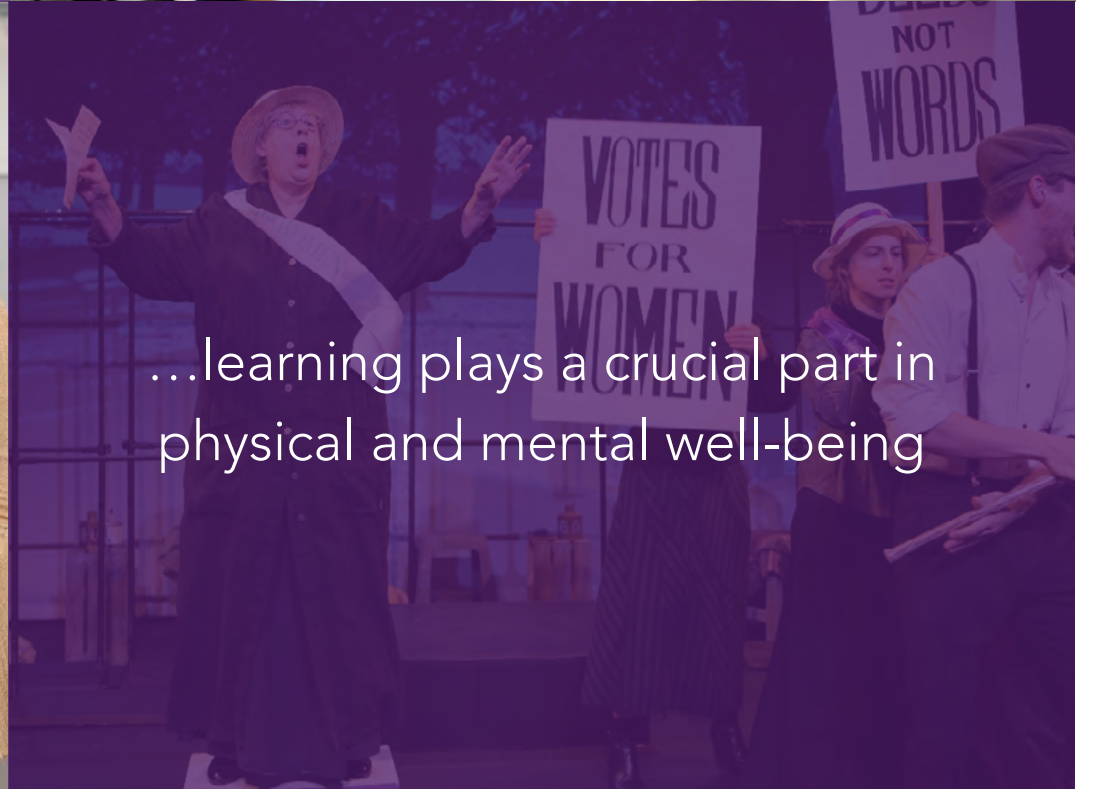
We Believe That...



...everyone should have access to adult education



...learning creates a sense of community, and our offer provides for some of those who need the most support



...learning plays a crucial part in physical and mental well-being

Curriculum Breadth



We provide over 5,000 courses, 7 days a week, 46 weeks a year. Our offer is diverse covering vocational and transferable skills, well-being, humanities, languages, visual arts, performing arts. We are a centre of excellence for adult speech therapy, Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and for adults with learning disabilities.



Developing the Plan - Engagement with Key Stakeholders

We engage with a wide range of stakeholders in addition to funding bodies and ERBs to inform curriculum design and enrich our learners' opportunities for development or progression.

Employer Engagement



Civic Stakeholder Engagement



Professional Associations



Civic Stakeholder Engagement

Our civic stakeholders include national and regional organisations, including:

- Greater London Authority
- Education & Skills Funding Agency
- Department for Education
- Learning & Work Institute
- HOLEX
- Association of Colleges
- Institutes of Adult Learning

City Lit contributes to shaping the policy for adult education in London and nationally and ensures its currency related to the latest societal and economic priorities. Through our political engagement, stakeholder and partnership working, we ensure that the benefits of adult education to individuals, economy and society are recognised and advocated for.

We partner with the British Museum to provide adult education provision relevant to their major exhibitions, as well co-delivering Classics Day, with the likes of Dame Mary Beard and Bettany Hughes taking part each year. Our Learning Disabilities learners work with the Royal Ballet and the Royal Academy of Music co-producing performances across the Capital.

For the last 26 years City Lit has been the founder and host of Deaf Day, the biggest and most significant Deaf and hard-of-hearing event in UK, partnering with over 60 organisations and welcoming over 3,000 of the Deaf community to the college.

Employer Engagement

Our work with employers, both local, regional and national, leads to the curriculum that reflects the appropriate knowledge, skills, and industry standards and provides a gateway into a range of sectors. Our relationships with employers and professional bodies support our learners in three ways:

1. Employers share intelligence with City Lit about skills shortages or offer learners work placement, employment, and volunteering opportunities. Some occasionally run workshops for learners about aspects of self-employment.
2. Professional associations offer opportunities for learners to join the professional communities of practice, supporting their future CPD and career progression.
3. Employers whose workforce improves core skills and productivity through the City Lit's tailored learning programmes.



Engagement with Professional Associations

City Lit departments are either leading partners, or active members, of professional associations. These bodies include:

- London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- British Stammering Association
- Association of BSL Teachers and Assessors
- Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults (ATLA),
- British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)
- British Association for Counselling
- Complementary Therapists Association
- Federation of Holistic Therapists
- Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)
- Crafts Council
- Designer Bookbinders & The Society of Bookbinders
- The Society of Scribes & Illuminators
- The Basket makers Association & The Worshipful company of Basket Makers
- Goldsmiths Livery Company
- Royal Society of Sculptors
- Calligraphy & Lettering Arts Society
- The Guild of Photographers & Association of Photographers
- Printmakers Council & Royal Society of Painter Printmakers
- Heritage Crafts Association

Local Needs Duty

City Lit meets national, regional and local skills priorities as identified by government, the Mayor of London and the London LSIP Committee. Our leadership and governance teams work proactively as a member of BusinessLDN, and with the GLA, to implement the ambitions and objectives of the Skills Roadmap for London and the London Local Skills Improvement Plan. Judged as making a strong contribution to meeting skills needs by Ofsted in 2023, we deliver outputs in the following priority areas:

Local skills needs priorities

Creative

We recognise the critical importance of creative skills development and the role this plays in supporting the growth of London's world-class creative industries. We are passionate about the arts, and understand the important economic impact this sector has in the national economy.

We hold the Mayor's Skills Academies Quality Mark for Creative Industries in recognition of high-quality skills training delivery and the role we play as a crucial part London's Creative industries nexus.

Approximately 50% of our courses are in the performing and visual arts. Our tutors are artists, musicians, authors with developed practices of their own, providing up-to-date knowledge and professional links to relevant industries. Our learners are often

self-employed artists, jewellers, ceramicists, sculptors, animators, authors and actors who start their careers with us or use us for their continuing professional development.

City Lit has secured GLA capital funding in 2024 for equipment renewal in our theatre, TV and photography studios to provide practical learning opportunities for those aiming to enter the sector, or progress in their current career in the priority job roles identified by the GLA of photographer: audio-visual/broadcast technical operator; producer and director; scaffolder, stager, and rigger; carpenter and joiner; newspaper and broadcast producer, journalist or reporter. We are very conscious that our excellent facilities are a crucial part of the learning experience and they need continual investment.

Local Needs Duty

Local skills needs priorities

Health & social care

We invested in creating a new Well-being Centre in 2020 to support the growth in our health & social care offer so that courses can be delivered in an industry standard setting.

The centre primarily supports London health & social care skills priorities through provision of Level 3 Massage Diploma qualifications which have grown year-on-year through the support of the Free Courses for Jobs (FCfJ) Regional Flexibility policy. The Centre also houses our counselling programme, which from 2024-25 is also supported by the FCfJ Regional Flexibility, offering free places on the Level 3 Counselling Diploma to those without a Level 3 qualification, unemployed learners or those earning below the living wage.

Digital

We are committed to delivering essential and advanced digital skills needed in the digital skills industry and wider workplace. This priority aligns with the Skills Roadmap for London and London's Local Skills Improvement Plan. These enabling skills play an important supporting role in London achieving other key objectives such as growth of the green skills industry. Our curriculum offer serves first-engagement learners at entry level, with progression routes through to level 3 certificates in programming, e-commerce and UX which has grown year-on-year supported by FCfJ.

City Lit has secured GLA capital funding in 2024 to finance digital skills classroom refurbishment to provide a welcoming environment for those aiming to enter the sector, or progress in their current career in the priority job roles identified by the GLA of programmers and software development professionals, web design professionals and data analysts.

Local Needs Duty

Local skills needs priorities

Essential/Basic Skills

The London LSIP reports a higher proportion of adult Londoners with lower proficiency in 'basic skills' (numeracy, literacy, and English language skills) compared to the national average. This resonates with City Lit, where expertise in delivering these critical enabling skills has built over decades. We have more recently grown our maths offer year-on-year, supported by the London Multiply programme, which provides progression routes to our accredited offer. Our ESOL programme supports London's migrant workforce, often accessed free of charge to those earning below the London living wage.

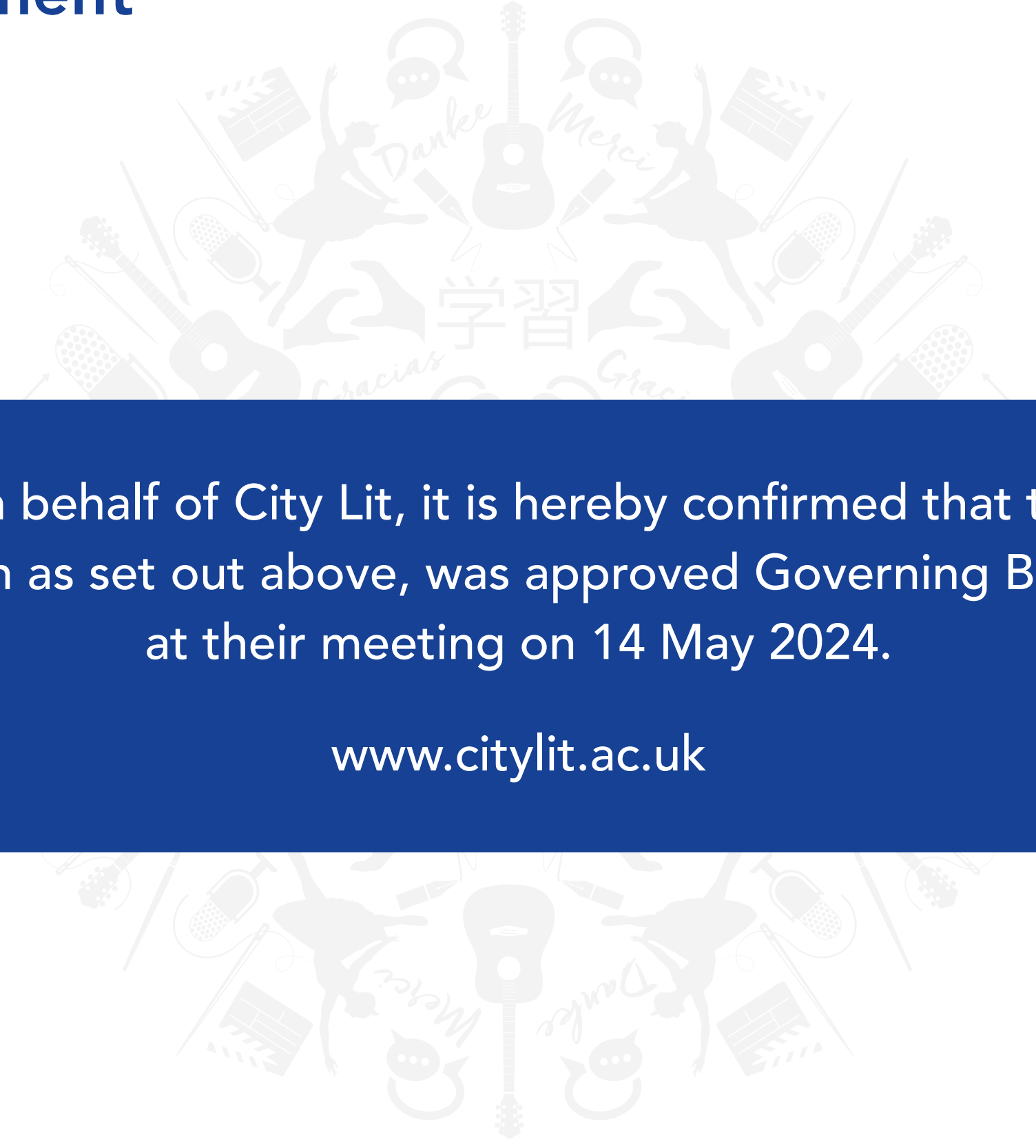
Transferable Skills

Transferable skills development including research, critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, analytical skills, organisational skills and time management skills are a key part of adult education and are embedded across our wide curriculum. They are explicit in our universal and employability skills offer and personal and professional development courses such as assertiveness and public speaking. LSIP research shows these as the most in demand employer skills, yet the most lacking in job candidates. City Lit works actively with BusinessLDN and seeks further skills brokerage opportunities to co-design courses with employers.

Objectives

Aim/objective	Match to National/regional/local Priorities	2023/2024 estimated enrolments	2024-25 Target
Support the growth of London's creative industries by sustainably growing our vocational pathways, including accreditation through the FCfJ and Bootcamps.	Local (London LSIP); regional (GLA)	14,500	15,000
Continue to deliver our digital skills offer informed by the sector that addresses skills needs, including growing accredited progression pathways through the FCfJ stream and Bootcamps.	Digital skills: local (London LSIP); regional (GLA); National (DfE)	1,100	1,175
Continue to deliver vocational training pathways in key Health and Social Care professions and continuing professional development. Continue to grow accredited progression pathways through the FCfJ stream.	Health and Social Care; local (London LSIP, BACP, employers) ; regional (GLA)	950	1,000
Address exclusion and marginalisation faced by the Deaf community through sustainable growth of BSL, lipreading and skills training for Deaf and hard of hearing learners, including BSL and Lipreading Teacher Training programmes.	Regional (GLA)	856	875
Sustainably grow our essential skills offer (English, maths, ESOL and essential digital) to enable more adults to progress in life and work.	Local (London LSIP); regional (GLA); National (DfE)	2,050	2,150

Corporation Statement



On behalf of City Lit, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above, was approved Governing Body at their meeting on 14 May 2024.

www.citylit.ac.uk

CITYLIT

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The City Literary Institute, a company limited by guarantee

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