Degree Apprenticeships:
Driving up skills levels in Tees Valley

Laura Woods
Director of Academic Enterprise, Teesside University
28 March, 2018
Degree apprenticeships:

• Fit with agenda
• Progress so far
• What more needs to be done
The big (national and Tees Valley) picture

• 1.8 million new jobs between 2014 and 2024 (UKCES, 2016)
• 70% in occupations most likely to employ graduates
• 40% new apprenticeship standards at Level 6 and above
• In Tees Valley, 133 000 jobs by 2024
• High proportions in managerial, professional or associate professional and technical occupations
• HL skills deficit: HE entry; workforce upskilling; productivity challenge
Opportunities in Tees Valley

• Strong public-private partnerships
• £1.47 billion of private investment since 2011
• Highly progressive LEP and Combined Authority
• Metro mayor championing process, adv manuf, health, bioeconomy, digital
• South Tees Mayoral Development Corporation
Teesside University

- Only HEI fully in the Tees Valley
- Economic anchor role
- Strong engagement with business – central to mission
- Widening access role
- Leading strategic initiatives
- Full commitment to degree apprenticeships
Partnerships

- Strategic TVCA/TU partnership ratified by MoU
- Commitment to work together on growth, innovation, skills, aspirations, investment and talent attraction
- Characterised by “borderless” working – joint investments, secondments, shared responsibilities
- Strong working relationships with NE Chamber of Commerce, industry bodies such as NE Process Industry Cluster
What we’ve done together

• TVCA Skills Strategy: Joint DA growth commitment
• Joint officer working; employer events; promotion; offers tie-ups
• Support for HEFCE initiative to accelerate & expand STEM provision:
  • Business Development DA Managers
  • Schools & National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)
  • ‘Grow your Own’ promotional campaign to employers
  • Alignment of internal processes (ongoing...)
Our collective challenge

• Culture change in organisations – adapting on both sides to the DA “idea”
• Addressing employer perceptions and understanding – a big job
• Ensuring flexibility and responsiveness in the context of heavy bureaucracy
• Keeping the focus and a collective voice
• We need shared milestones to keep on track

Strategic commitment & shared objectives and targets are critical for success
Thank you