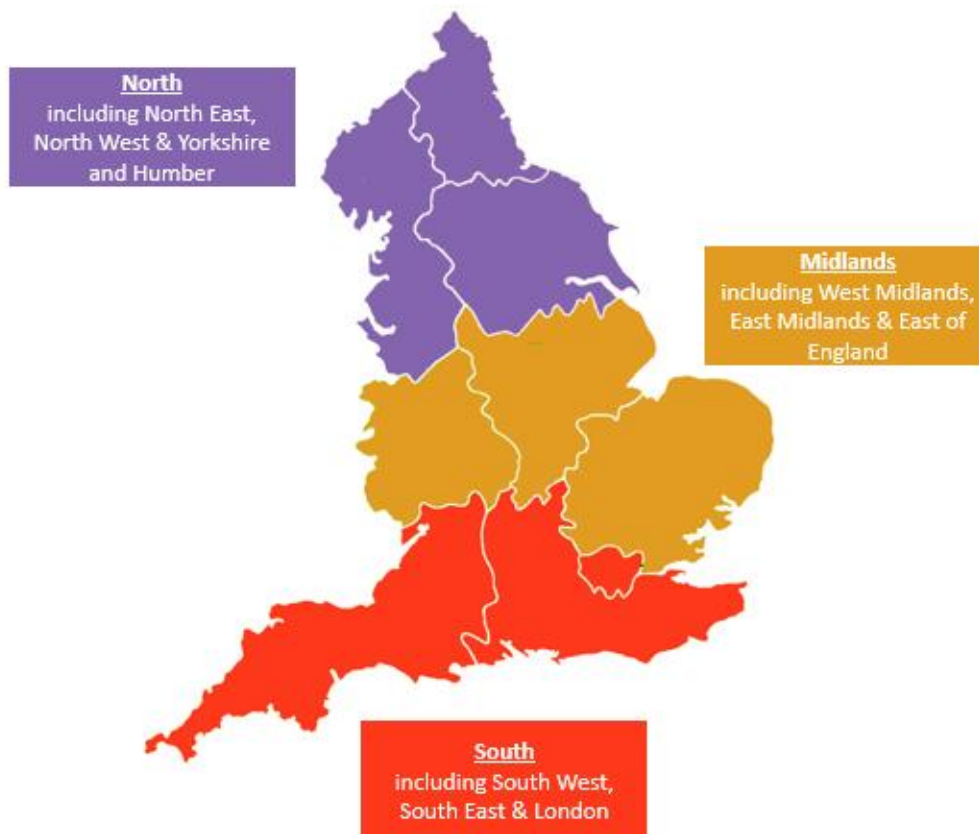


T-LEVELS

T Level Ambassador Network (TAN)

Regional Plan for the North (summary)

February 2026



We are delighted to introduce the North Region's T Level Ambassador Network (TAN) Regional Plan. Shaped by our national priorities and a strong regional lens, this signals a powerful new chapter for our network, driven by our shared passion for building a stronger, more confident, and more influential ambassador community across the North.

Across the North West, North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber, our incredible region is home to a wide and diverse range of industries and opportunities. Our ambassadors are central to linking these industries with the next generation of talented young people pursuing T Levels, and your contribution is at the heart of this journey. You bring invaluable insight, local knowledge, and passion to champion T Levels. This plan shows how we'll channel that energy: building stronger partnerships, addressing critical skills needs, and highlighting the real impact of T Levels and industry placements across our communities.

Built to be supportive, collaborative, and responsive, this plan draws on your insights and our shared vision to make T Levels a credible, high-quality pathway into skilled careers. Whether you're new to the network or have been with us for years, your voice and experience matter.

Thank you for your continued commitment. Together, we will inspire the next generation, strengthen our region, and make a real, lasting impact through T Levels.

Jo Hartley-Metcalf
Regional Chair, North

The introduction of regional plans marks a significant moment for the T Level Ambassador Network. They reflect a shared commitment to continuing to grow T Levels with confidence, relevance and credibility, shaped by the realities of local economies, employers and T Level providers, while contributing to a strong national system.

By setting out a regional framework, these plans create the conditions for ambassadors to work with greater focus and purpose. They recognise the value of local relationships, trusted voices and sector knowledge, and the difference this makes when engaging employers, providers, schools and partners. Regionalisation is not about changing what the network stands for, but about strengthening how it operates—so that ambassador time, expertise and influence are used where they can make the greatest difference.

Above all, these plans are an invitation. An invitation for ambassadors to play an active role in shaping opportunity for young people, for partners to work alongside a coordinated and evidence-informed network, and for the system to continue learning about what works. With the dedication of ambassadors across England and the support of the Department for Education, national and regional partners, the network is well placed to deliver meaningful impact in the years ahead.

The National Leadership Team is proud of the work that has gone into developing these plans and is fully committed to supporting their delivery. We see them as living documents, reviewed, refined and strengthened through ongoing insight, feedback and collaboration, and as a foundation for a more connected, responsive and impactful T Level Ambassador Network.

Jo Simovic
National Chair

Natalie Jones
National Vice Chair

Danny Brett
National Vice Chair

1 Vision for the Ambassador Network in the North

The T Level Ambassador Network (TAN) in the North will be a strong, employer-facing regional voice for T Levels, rooted in the region's industrial heritage and its transition to a greener, more technologically advanced economy. From advanced manufacturing and engineering to energy, maritime and logistics corridors, health, and food and bio-manufacturing, the network will focus its activity where T Levels can most effectively support economic renewal, workforce development and social mobility.

Ambassador activity will be guided by evidence from Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), T Level provider delivery and ambassador coverage analysis. This will enable the network to prioritise sectors and places where employer demand is clear, provision exists at scale, and industry placements remain difficult to secure. Ambassadors will be visible and active in the North's most influential forums, including Combined Authorities, LSIP employer boards, Chambers of Commerce, sector bodies, and major anchor employers.

Through these connections, ambassadors will help unlock employer pipelines in sectors aligned to the government's industrial strategy such as engineering and manufacturing, digital, health and science, and the green economy, while addressing persistent gaps in creative and design, legal, finance and accounting.

By focusing on the right sectors, the right geographies and the right partnerships, the network will strengthen employer confidence, expand industry placement capacity and raise awareness of T Levels across the region. By 2027, the North will have an active, well-connected ambassador community playing a visible role in a more coherent and employer-led technical education system.

2 Executive Summary

This Regional Plan sets out how the T Level Ambassador Network will operate across the North of England, covering the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber, to turn regional insight into targeted action. It explains how ambassador activity will support national TAN objectives while responding to the North's distinctive economic and labour market context.

The plan is underpinned by a clear principle: ambassador effort should be focused where it can deliver the greatest impact. Drawing on regional mapping, LSIP intelligence and ambassador data, it brings together employer demand, provider capacity and existing ambassador coverage to guide decisions about recruitment, deployment and engagement. It highlights areas of strength, including engineering and manufacturing, digital, and health and science routes, alongside clear gaps, particularly in creative and design and legal, finance and accounting.

Ambassadors will be supported to work through high-impact routes into the system. This includes sustained engagement with Combined Authorities, LSIP employer representative bodies, Chambers of Commerce, sector networks and anchor employers, alongside practical support for providers facing persistent industry placement challenges in priority routes. Activity is aligned directly to national TAN objectives, with a strong emphasis on growing industry placements, improving employer awareness and building confident, well-connected regional networks.

This plan provides a clear and practical direction for the North as the regional model moves into delivery. It is designed to be evidence-led, adaptable and focused on outcomes, evolving as new insight emerges and as the network learns what works best across the diverse economies of the North.

3 Regional Priorities

The following page provides an overview of the economic drivers, T Level delivery, and ambassador coverage underpinning the sector priorities for the region.

A number of important national sector priorities, aligned to the government’s Modern Industrial Strategy, will also be addressed through targeted regional activity. These are Health and Science, Digital, Engineering and Manufacturing, Construction, and Creative and Design.

<p>Economic drivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering and advanced manufacturing heartland • Retrofit in industrial towns • Energy and maritime corridors (Humber, Tees, Tyneside) • Chemicals • Logistics • Food and bio-manufacturing • Growing health and social care base • Strong green-industry transition (offshore wind, hydrogen, CCUS supply chains) 	<p>T Level delivery</p> <p>Current data across the super-region suggests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong provision in Digital, Education and Early Years, Engineering and Manufacturing and Health and Science routes. • Industry placement sourcing challenges in: Digital; Engineering and Manufacturing; Creative and Design; Legal, Finance and Accounting • Some sectors heavily dominated by SMEs, creating high churn.
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<p>Current ambassador coverage</p> <p>Total ambassadors in region: 396</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East: 78 ambassadors • North West: 199 ambassadors • Yorkshire and the Humber: 119 ambassadors <p>By ambassador type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer / employer body: 114 • Provider: 203 • Student: 33 • Other: 46 	<p>Current coverage by T Level route:</p> <p>High coverage routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering and Manufacturing • Digital • Health and Science <p>Low coverage routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal, Finance and Accounting • Creative and Design
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Route priorities for the region

The following routes will be a particular priority for the North:

- Digital*
- Engineering and Manufacturing*
- Health and Science*

** Also a national priority.*

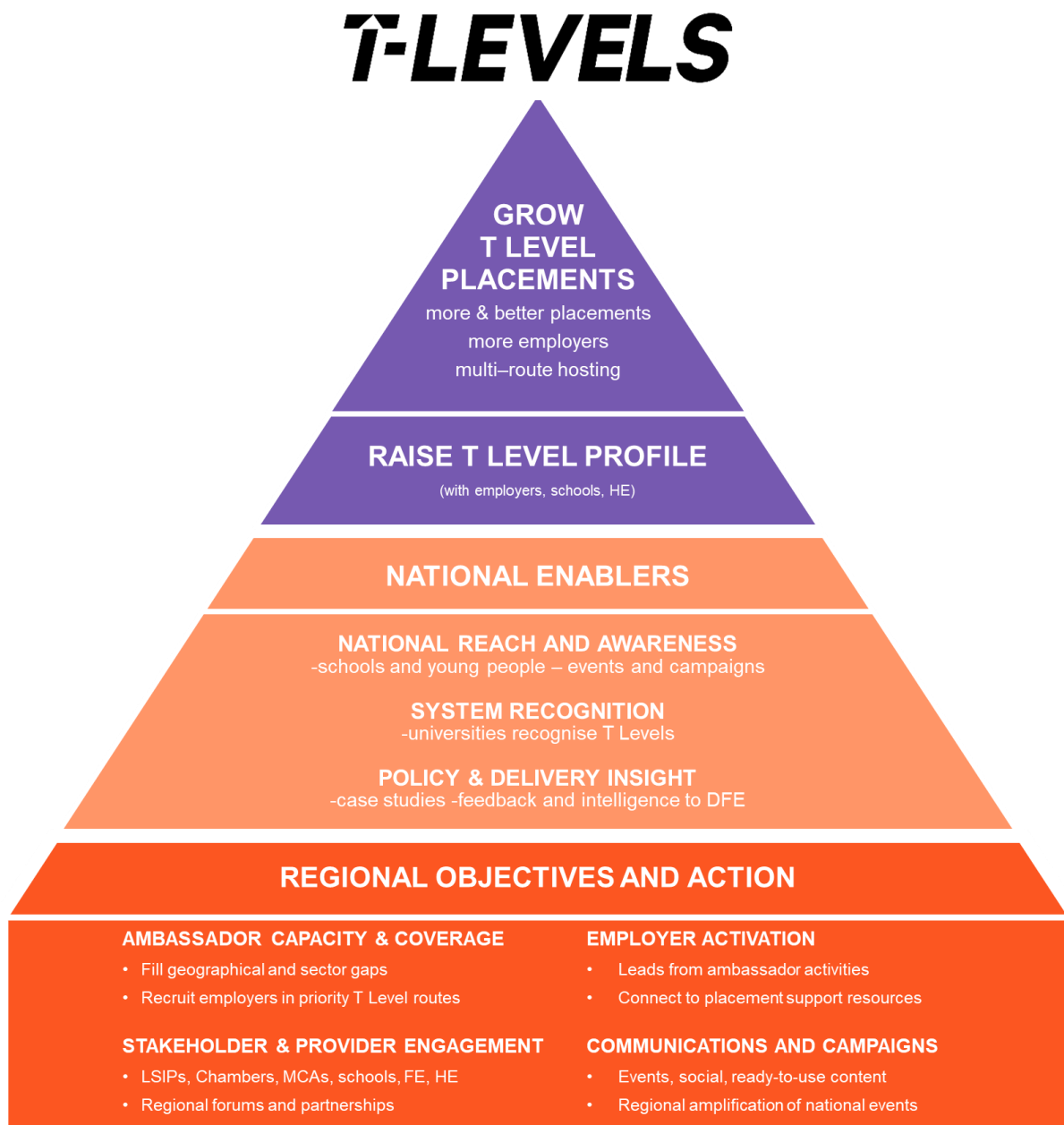
Targeted ambassador activity will also be supported in Construction and Creative and Design, aligned to key sector hotspots in different areas of the region, as well as Legal, Finance and Accounting where industry placements can be more challenging to source.

4 Linking regional to national objectives and priorities

This section provides a framework of how regional activity will be aligned with the national objectives of the T Level Ambassador Network and national policy goals. Although each region will follow the same framework, activity will be focussed on the specific sectors and priorities set out for this region (Section 3 above).

The diagram below summarises the alignment of national and regional ambassador action. The network's ultimate aim is to raise the profile of T Levels and increase the number of T Level industry placements (purple), supported by national enablers around reach, system recognition and policy and delivery (peach). Underpinning this will be regional objectives and action (red).

The table on the next page sets out the full national and regional network objectives mapping how national goals correspond to regional actions.



	National objectives	Regional objectives (to August 2027)
Growing T Level industry placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple ambassador-hosted T Level industry placements At least 50% of TAN employers to offer industry placements in two+ T Level subjects by 2027 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage employer ambassadors and provider ambassadors, connecting them to account management support, resources and events that increase industry placements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase industry placement opportunities generated through TAN influence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capture employer leads from ambassador activity and direct them to industry placement support Recruit new ambassadors prioritising employers aligned to key T Level routes
Supporting ambassadors to raise the profile of T Levels in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and sustain strategic partnerships with national stakeholders to expand influence and reach of TAN 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage regional stakeholders to support ambassador recruitment, deployment and awareness-raising activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the growth of T Level awareness amongst young people 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with careers partners and provider liaison teams to reach secondary schools and raise T Level awareness among 14–16-year-olds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence the inclusion of T Levels in university entry requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage HEIs to support T Level recognition in admissions and explore hosting of industry placements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public engagement with T Levels via social media, events, and campaigns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Equip ambassadors to speak at regional forums/events Create targeted campaigns and ready-to-use content every two months for ambassadors and stakeholders to promote in the region
T Level policy and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide actionable feedback and insights to inform and enhance the development of T Level policies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate ambassador input into DfE policy and identify three regional case study leads annually

Over the coming months, a small number of key measures will be put in place and shared with ambassadors to focus effort, track progress and steer future activity and priorities as regional insights and opportunities arise.