

Annual Statement**London Professional College****Academic Year 2025–26**

It is with great pride that I reflect on the past academic year at London Professional College, a year that has marked both achievement and resilience. As Chair of the Board of Governors, I am pleased to present this Annual Statement reflecting on the 2025–26 academic year. This has been a year defined by recovery, consolidation, and renewed confidence, following a period of significant external challenge. It is also a year in which the College has demonstrated resilience, maturity in governance, and a clear commitment to placing learners at the centre of decision-making.

In the early part of the academic year, the College responded promptly and effectively to a period of disruption arising from external awarding body processes. The Board exercised close oversight throughout, ensuring that learner interests remained paramount, operational continuity was maintained, and risks were appropriately managed. Timely and decisive actions were implemented to strengthen internal processes, enhance institutional resilience, and provide assurance to stakeholders, enabling the College to stabilise quickly and continue delivery without any enduring impact on the student experience. Importantly, the College's internal review of delivery, assessment, and learner outcomes demonstrated that academic standards and quality expectations were being met. The experience nevertheless provided an opportunity to strengthen operational resilience, refine internal systems, and enhance oversight arrangements. As a result, the College took proactive steps to improve assurance processes, diversify external dependencies, and reinforce accountability across academic and operational functions, placing the institution in a stronger and more secure position moving forward.

As the year progressed, the College moved confidently from recovery into a more stable and sustainable operating position. Governance arrangements were clarified and strengthened, improved Board reporting, and more structured use of data to inform strategic discussion. The Board has increased its focus on assurance, risk, and forward planning, supported by clearer performance indicators, learner dashboards, and enhanced visibility of quality and safeguarding metrics.

A key achievement during the year has been the refinement and approval of the College's Business Plan for 2025–26. This sets out a clear and credible strategic direction, grounded in evidence from the Self-Assessment Report, local skills priorities, and learner demand. The expansion of provision through Access to Diplomas in Business and Nursing, alongside new Level 3 programmes aligned to digital and commercial skills, represents an important step in broadening opportunities for adult learners and strengthening progression routes into higher education and employment.

The Board has been encouraged by the continued strength of learner retention and engagement, even during periods of operational pressure. This reflects the dedication of staff, the

effectiveness of pastoral support arrangements, and the College's commitment to inclusive practice. During the year, further enhancements have been made to learner support, early intervention, academic skills development, and the use of digital platforms to improve transparency and feedback. Learner voice has also been strengthened, with clearer routes for feedback to inform quality cycles and governance discussions.

Quality assurance and compliance have been central to the Board's work throughout the year. The College has implemented a more structured and proactive quality framework, including programme level review, standardisation activity, clearer assessment moderation processes, and a developing risk register. Safeguarding arrangements remain robust and well embedded, with ongoing training, audit activity, and Board level oversight. The Board is satisfied that the College now has stronger internal resilience and a clearer line of sight between operational delivery and strategic assurance.

Financial stewardship has remained prudent and disciplined. The College has operated within budget, maintained financial sustainability, and made targeted investments in staffing, digital infrastructure, and quality systems. Regular financial monitoring has enabled the Board to balance ambition with realism, ensuring that growth plans are appropriately phased and risks are understood.

As Chair, I would like to place on record my thanks to fellow Governors for their commitment, challenge, and support throughout the year, and to the senior leadership team and staff for their professionalism and dedication during a demanding period of change. The collective effort across the institution has enabled London Professional College to move forward with greater clarity, confidence, and stability.

As we begin the new calendar year, this is an appropriate moment to reflect on the collective effort and commitment shown across the College community. The work undertaken over the past year has not only strengthened operational resilience and governance maturity but has also laid firm foundations for the next phase of the College's development. In particular, the continued progression of proposals to introduce higher education provision demonstrates a clear and considered ambition to broaden opportunity, enhance progression pathways, and respond to the evolving needs of learners and the broader skills landscape.

I would like to extend my very best wishes to all staff and learners as we enter 2026. The year ahead presents an opportunity to build with confidence on the solid foundations now in place, supported by strengthened governance, a clearer strategic direction, and a shared commitment to quality and inclusion. With renewed focus and momentum, the College is well-positioned to deliver positive, sustainable outcomes for learners, staff, and the wider community it serves.

Mandhir Gill
Chair of the Board of Governors
London Professional College