



Women Skills and **Employment in the** North East

Represent Women briefing paper from their 2024 survey







A courageous, collaborative and committed voice for the women and girls VCSE sector in the North-East and Tees Valley.



WOMEN AND EDUCATION SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Our research included an online survey of women and women's sector organisations in the North East alongside focus groups. This document aims to provide an insight into women's opinions and feelings about skills and employment.





We asked: Do you think there is enough support to access education, skills and employment for women and girls?

29% Yes

27% Sometimes

25% Unsure

19%

No



'Employment options are pitiful and discriminatory for those of us unlucky enough to be disabled and chronically ill.'

'It's harder to do that sort of thing if you have responsibilities you need money coming in you can't just go and be a full time student'

'I have had experiences in workplaces being treated differently to the men. either not telling me do things that they let men do or letting me do things that men wont do' 'Many women with Mental Health needs have experienced trauma and need single sex provision'

'Lots of girls feel they are pushed into care roles or other roles that 'suit' their gender'

'I am not sure if there are women-only adult education classes but this might encourage participation.'

'My CV wipes the floor with my fiancé's and yet I struggle to get opportunities that are handed to him'

'Getting an email from the centre to say that the woman I coached got the job she went to interview for! This means she is able to provide for her family, and feel she is able to contribute to society whilst developing her own skills'





We asked: Do you think there is enough support locally for women and girls to start and grow your own business or enterprise?

14%

19%

43%

24%

Yes

Sometimes

Unsure

No

FURTHER RESEARCH

The 2024 **Woman of the North** report, Health Equity 2024, stated a number of key steps that Combined Authorities should take and we endorse these recommendations. We support disaggregated data and feel it is important to dissect statistics about women and further analyse what is behind the data.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use a gendered lens when designing support to meet women's needs
- Utilise one to one coaches
- Share and implement learning from projects that are already effectively supporting women and girls
- Provide early intervention and examples for young girls through PR and education- you can only be what you can see
- Avoid postcode lottery by filling gaps in provision across the region using mapping exercises
- Implement the recommendations from the Woman of the North report