

Education: Inspiring the next generation

Apr - Jul 2025



 **SCAPE**

 **COMMUNITY**
LEGACY PROGRAMME

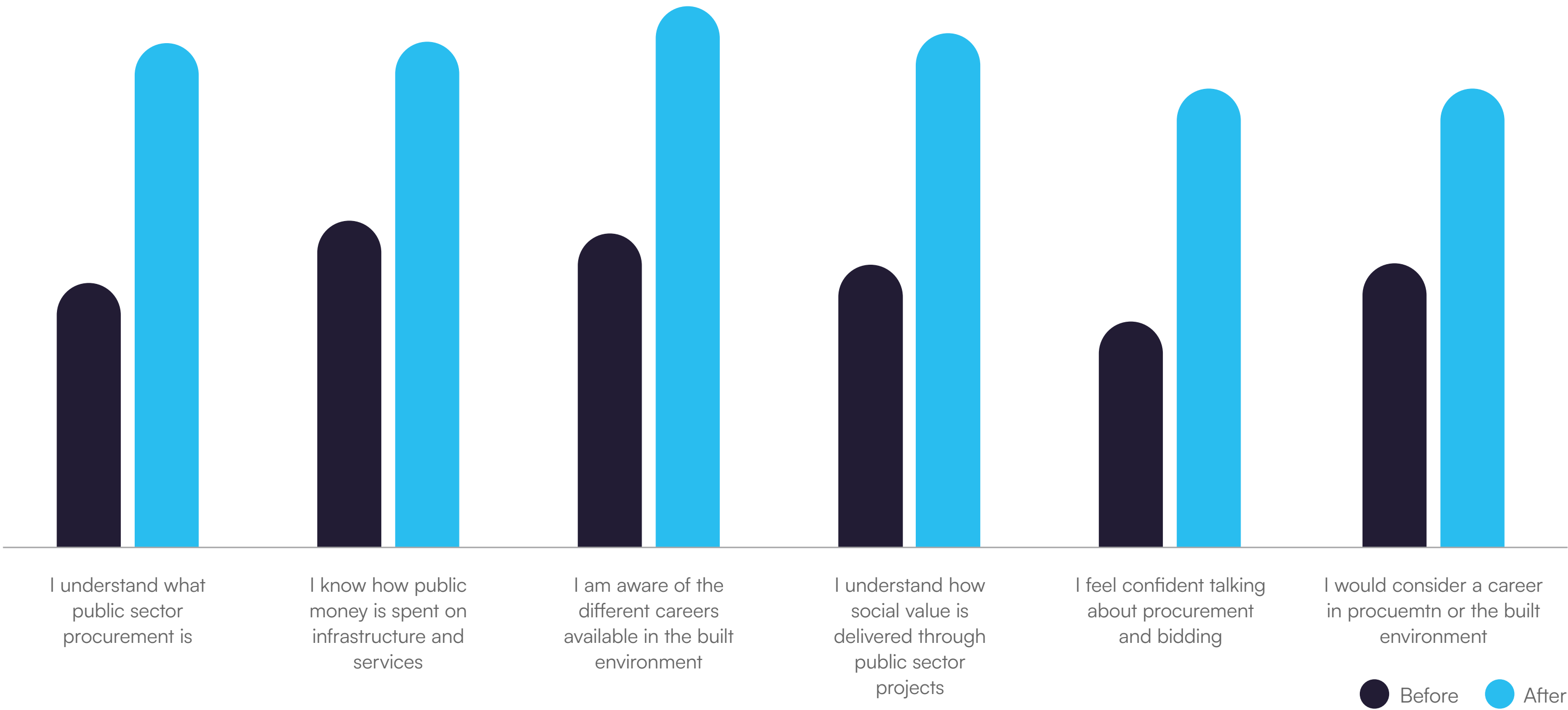
Our Legacy Programmes

By collaborating on quarterly themes, we can maximise our social impact in the communities where we work. Collaboration means that SCAPE delivery partners can either work together, or work on a shared goal.

Engaging students in the construction industry is vital for bridging the skills gap, fostering innovation, and ensuring a pipeline of skilled professionals. By connecting with students early, the industry can address misconceptions, showcase diverse career paths, and inspire the next generation to pursue careers in construction. This engagement also helps students develop relevant skills and build connections, ultimately leading to a more diverse and dynamic workforce

This report showcases some of the ways our framework delivery partners and SCAPE engaged with students in just four months.

Student survey undertaken at Bluecoat Academy Aspley, Nottingham
before and after SCAPE's Bidmaster Challenge work experience



£6,785
Goods or funds donated



143
Volunteers



1,078
Volunteer hours

Work Taster Event

In early April, more than 120 pupils from schools across Nottinghamshire attended and turned their hands to a range of activities including door hanging, concrete cutting and bridge building.

Hosted at Vision West Notts College and organised by Action for Construction, the national training group for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, the event brought together industry-leading employers to showcase the vast opportunities available to the next generation of construction professionals.

SCAPE was pleased to sponsor the student awards.

SCAPE delivery partners Stepnell, Clegg and Balfour Beatty all provided practical sessions for students to experience.

Lindum's team offered an insight into site surveying, giving young people the chance to operate a GPS-activated theodolite to measure angles and set out a mock construction site.

GF Tomlinson ran two hands on workshops: a door hanging activity alongside a bridge building activity. They were also on hand to provide careers advice, particularly around the various roles in construction. As well as engaging with the students, they also spoke to the educators about assisting their careers programme over the upcoming academic years.

In partnership with SCAPE, we thank our partners for their time volunteering.

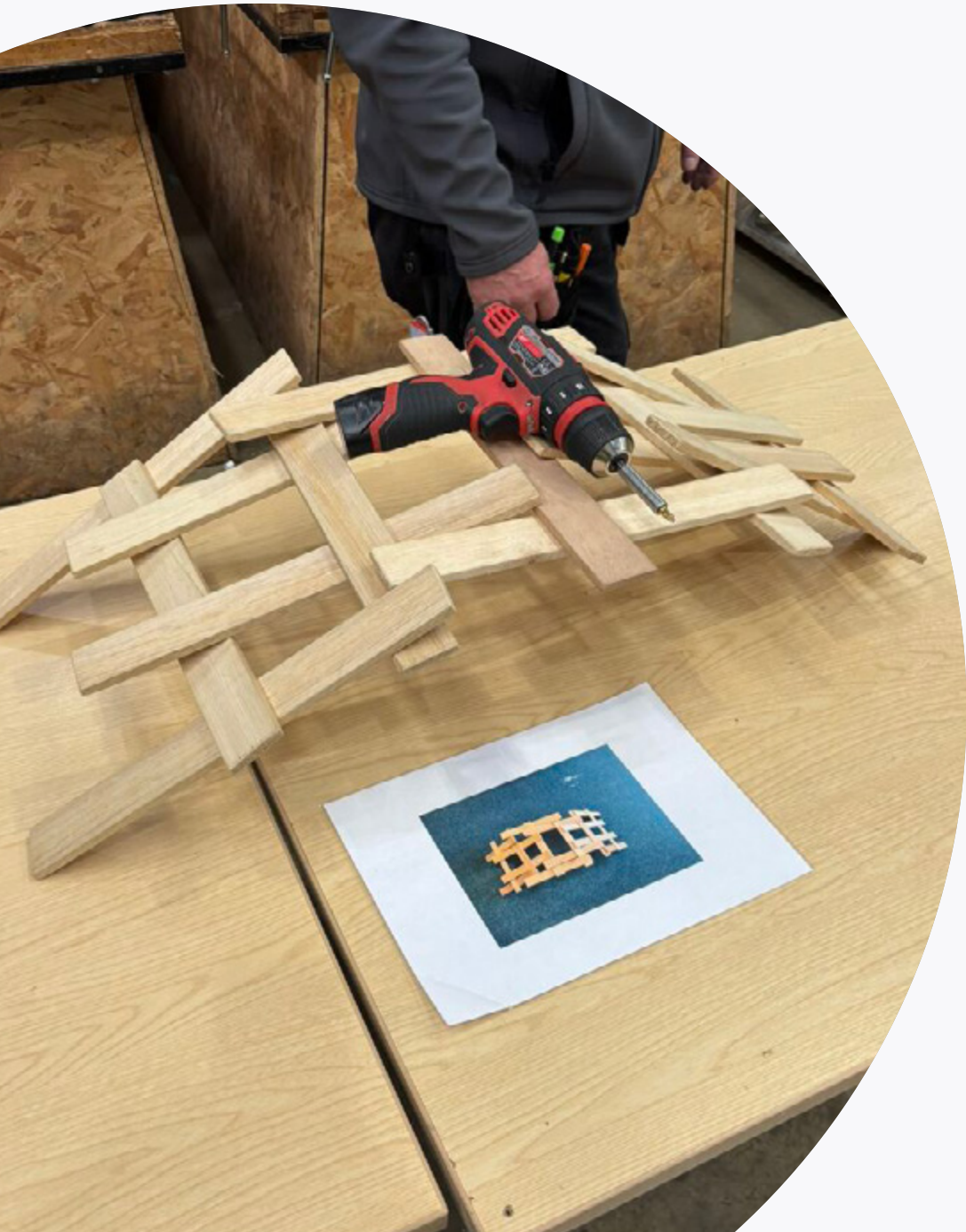
Balfour Beatty

CLEGG
CONSTRUCTION

LINDUM

STEPNELL
COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

TOMLINSON
Est. 1892



Supporting Local Schools

SCAPE delivery partners supported students of many different ages and stages of their education.

Supporting SATs

In May, breakfast food was donated to a primary school in Bury St Edmunds by Clegg Construction.

The breakfast events were carried out in association with The Pines Parents and Friends Association, a charitable organisation that helps support the school and its pupils.

The outcome of this donation helped the school to make the breakfasts possible, and supported the students by helping to calm their nerves and build their confidence as they embarked on their SATs.

Mentoring

Jeakins Weir supported a young man undertaking The Kings Trust Development Programme, by mentoring him for a week, introducing him to painting and decorating trades on site.

Mock Interviews

Colleagues at GF Tomlinson carried out mock interviews at six schools, giving older students the opportunity to experience an interview in a safe environment and interact with industry professionals. Feedback was also given at the end of the interview, along with some hints and tips, to help the young people prepare for when they're seeking employment and, although some were nervous, they all gained valuable skills and are now better equipped for their future.

GF Tomlinson, along with supply chain partner Linsco, spent the day at Barnsley College with their Electrical T Level students conducting mock interviews, including more technical questions relating to their chosen field.

Material Donations

Ashe donated construction materials to St John's School in Kempston, a specialist SEND provision supporting pupils aged 2 to 19. Recognising the opportunity to support a valuable community initiative while reducing waste, Ashe's site team arranged for the materials to be collected and delivered directly to the school. The donated materials are now being used to help build a sensory garden—an inclusive, calming space designed to support the sensory and emotional needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The garden will provide a safe and stimulating environment where students can explore textures, colours, and sounds, supporting their development and wellbeing.



Guided Site Tours

Throughout spring and summer, Ashe's team hosted guided site tours for 250 Year 7 and Year 12 students from Bedford Academy, taking place at the site of their new school block, currently under construction by Ashe. Students were introduced to foundational work, structural design, and the roles of various trades on site, offering a hands-on, real-world experience of the construction industry.

Ashe also welcomed 11 HNC students studying Construction Management and Quantity Surveying from a local college for an in-depth site visit. The session included detailed discussions on project management, sustainability, and site safety, helping students bridge the gap between academic theory and industry practice.

Stepnell brought 10 students from Oakwood SEND secondary school for a construction site tour of Oakwood Post 16 school. After having an official site induction, the students who are currently doing an entry level construction course, were taught about risk assessments and then were asked to spot any hazards. They learnt about the skills employers are looking for, with a focus on teamworking.

GF Tomlinson welcomed 10 Year 4 Civil Engineering MSc students from the University of Nottingham along with two tutors onto site at the Hydrogen Propulsion Systems Lab project, located on the Jubilee Campus. These were all international students who had completed their BSc and had remained in the city to continue their studies.

Following a careers fair at Yeovil College, Morgan Sindall was able to arrange several site visits for 10 Level 1 and 2 students. They received a site induction, and wider careers talk prior to the tour of the Yeovil Hospital site.

Morgan Sindall was also proud to welcome 12 young people from Switch Up to their SCAPE Horizons Academy project. The group enjoyed a guided tour of the live site and met the team and the supply chain who shared their personal career stories and employment opportunities.



Careers Events

In June, two groups of 12 students from City of Derby Academy visited Stepnell's office to find out about careers in construction. This included information about apprenticeships, speed networking and a practical activity to build a bridge. By the end of the sessions the students had learnt about careers in construction, apprenticeship routes from L2 to degree apprenticeships. They had also demonstrated their ability to work in teams, communicate and overcome the challenges of limited resources to complete their project.

GF Tomlinson attended Bilborough College in support of their Futures Week, delivering Employability Skills Sessions, to provide practical career guidance and advice for nearly 200 year 12 students. Conversations were held both during and following the sessions with many students asking additional advice, particularly around CVs.

In July, Perfect Circle partners Pick Everard and AECOM organised a careers workshop for over 180 Year 11 and 12 students at Dartford Grammar School. The day included career talks, group activities and one-on-one conversations that introduced students to the diverse range of pathways into the construction and infrastructure sectors. Students heard directly from professionals across multiple disciplines including engineering, architecture, project management and sustainability.

Perfect Circle also supported Ebbsfleet Development Corporation with a day's challenge for Year 7 students to redesign the Railway Station forecourt with an emphasis on accessibility, sustainability and visual impact. Students had the opportunity to ask questions of the consultants and professionals who have helped bring Ebbsfleet Garden City to life, gaining valuable insights into real-life project delivery and the varied roles within the industry.

R G Carter's team were joined by their in-house designers Carter Design and M&E company Eyre at a career fair at ICENI Academy in Methwold, to talk to students ranging from year 7 to year 11. The students really engaged with the team, asking interesting questions about the industry and guidance on apprenticeships.

Colleagues from Ashe also attended careers fairs, including a lunchtime STEM session at a local school, and a large regional careers fair, welcoming approximately 1,100 Year 10 students from 21 secondary schools, including those with SEN provision. They had meaningful conversations with many students interested in work experience opportunities with Ashe.

Morgan Sindall recently attended a Women in Construction Event hosted by South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. Over 80 females from schools in Bristol attended and were tasked with trying various trades. The college will shortly be launching a groundworks qualification.



Work experience

In July, SCAPE had the privilege of hosting a three-day working experience event for students from Bluecoat Sixth Form, providing them with insights into the procurement and construction industry.

25 students worked in teams to tackle ‘The Bluecoat Bidmasters Challenge’, pitching innovative ideas aimed at supporting the local community.

Over the course of the three days, students also heard from various SCAPE Group employees about their unique career journeys in fields such as social value, architecture, frameworks and marketing. SCAPE was joined by delivery partners Kier, Balfour Beatty, Morgan Sindall, Willmott Dixon, Lindum, Gleeds and G F Tomlinson, who shared their experiences in roles like quantity surveying and project management, giving students a real-world perspective on the diverse opportunities available in the industry. The programme also raised confidence in public speaking, team working, research and presentation skills.

SCAPE is looking forward to delivering this programme to more schools next year.

At the end of June, 150 students from 18 different colleges and sixth forms across England and Wales took part in Balfour Beatty’s accessible, hybrid work experience programme. Accredited by Industrial Cadets, this offers four days online, with the final day in person, including a site visit where possible.

In partnership with SCAPE, we thank our partners for their time and efforts providing work experience.





Work experience continued...

Willmott Dixon provided work experience in two locations with 24 students from a variety of schools, colleges and universities across Nottingham and Birmingham spending the week at their offices, working in groups, each creating an award-winning tender for a sustainable leisure centre. Students engaged with planners, estimators, bid writers, sustainability and social value specialists, construction site teams and supply chain partners, to learn about their roles to help complete their project.

The week included a day at Willmott Dixon's Sleaford and University of Staffordshire projects, where students experienced a live project firsthand and gained an understanding of how sustainability fits with every step of the construction process.

R G Carter welcomed two students from Comberton Village College for a week of work experience at their Cambridge office. Throughout the week, both students had the opportunity to meet and learn from a wide variety of team members across the business. They also visited RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall where R G Carter currently have two live projects, and the team explained how they meet the exacting requirements in defence on an RAF base.

Stepnell facilitated a work experience project for 48 year 10 students at Trinity Catholic School and 15 year 12 students at Derby Moor Spencer Academy, with both schools being challenged to design a leisure centre. The students reported that they felt more knowledgeable about careers in construction and had increased their confidence in presenting.

“We’ve received such positive feedback from the students, many of whom found the experience incredibly valuable and confidence boosting. Your support plays a vital role in helping them prepare for the world of work, and your thoughtful guidance makes a lasting impact.”



Yasmin Moon,
Colonel Frank Seely Academy

“Everyone was very open to answering questions and took time out of their day to talk to us. People were also happy to discuss topics beyond construction, like apprenticeships versus university, which I appreciated as it helped to hear real personal experiences.”

Daniel,
Student

“With hands-on activities and engaging discussions, the event provided an interactive experience that gave students a real insight into the world of construction. The enthusiasm in the room was clear to see, as young people explored different trades, learned about career pathways, and connected with experts from across the industry.”



Adele Doyle,
General Manager, Action for Construction

“This was a valuable experience for our students, giving them a clearer understanding of what to expect in the world of work. They now feel more confident and less anxious about attending interviews



Bev Haley-Turner,
Work Placement Officer,
Barnsley College (Engineering)

