

## **Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing – Pilot Project**

### **Skills audit of bed and furniture sector in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire**

**Delivered by: Kirklees College (lead), The National Bed Federation, FIESTA and JCP Dewsbury**

There are currently over 350 registered businesses involved in the manufacture of furniture within the Kirklees area. Nearly 300 of which operate within North Kirklees areas of Batley, Dewsbury and Heckmondwike. The furniture and furnishings industry are of significant importance to the UK economy, with an annual turnover well in excess of £12 billion. Workplaces can be wide-ranging from small workshops to large factories.

The aim of the project:

- To better understand the business landscape of the furniture and bedding manufacturing sector within Kirklees and their training and skills requirements
- To deliver a marketing campaign to local companies to raise awareness of our skills audit activity and promotion of skills, training and apprenticeships.
- To support the engagement of a diverse workforce employed by SMEs who traditionally may not invest in skills development.
- Create links with other business support programmes, SWAP, Kickstart, ATA's
- Have a valuable role in upskilling existing workforces, as well as developing apprenticeship and training programmes to match the needs of furniture and bedding manufactures in Kirklees.

**For more information, please contact Helen Rose, Director of External Relations – [hrose@kirkleescollege.ac.uk](mailto:hrose@kirkleescollege.ac.uk)**