A recent City & Guilds/YouGov poll revealed that almost half of UK employees believe workplace skills training provided by their employer is inadequate. Skill shortages exist across all industries. And developments in digital technologies as well as the rise of automation means the need to increase and improve training and development solutions is more important than ever.

As a regional recruitment provider, we know first-hand that North East companies are investing more in staff training and development. Linked to skills shortages, businesses acknowledge that recruiting the right skills is competitive and challenging. Many firms, therefore, now consider developing people a priority.

During the last 12 months, we've experienced a significant increase in talent acquisition projects focused on identifying and attracting good Learning and Development professionals. This is a trend across all sectors and we expect this to continue in 2019.

At Nigel Wright, we've also made considerable investments in training and development for our consultants. In 2018, our North East recruiters enjoyed more hours of internal training than previously delivered at Nigel Wright. Efforts to improve training and development were rated highly too. Our most recent employee engagement survey revealed that North East staff scored training and development opportunities at 9/10 – the highest average across the whole Nigel Wright Group.