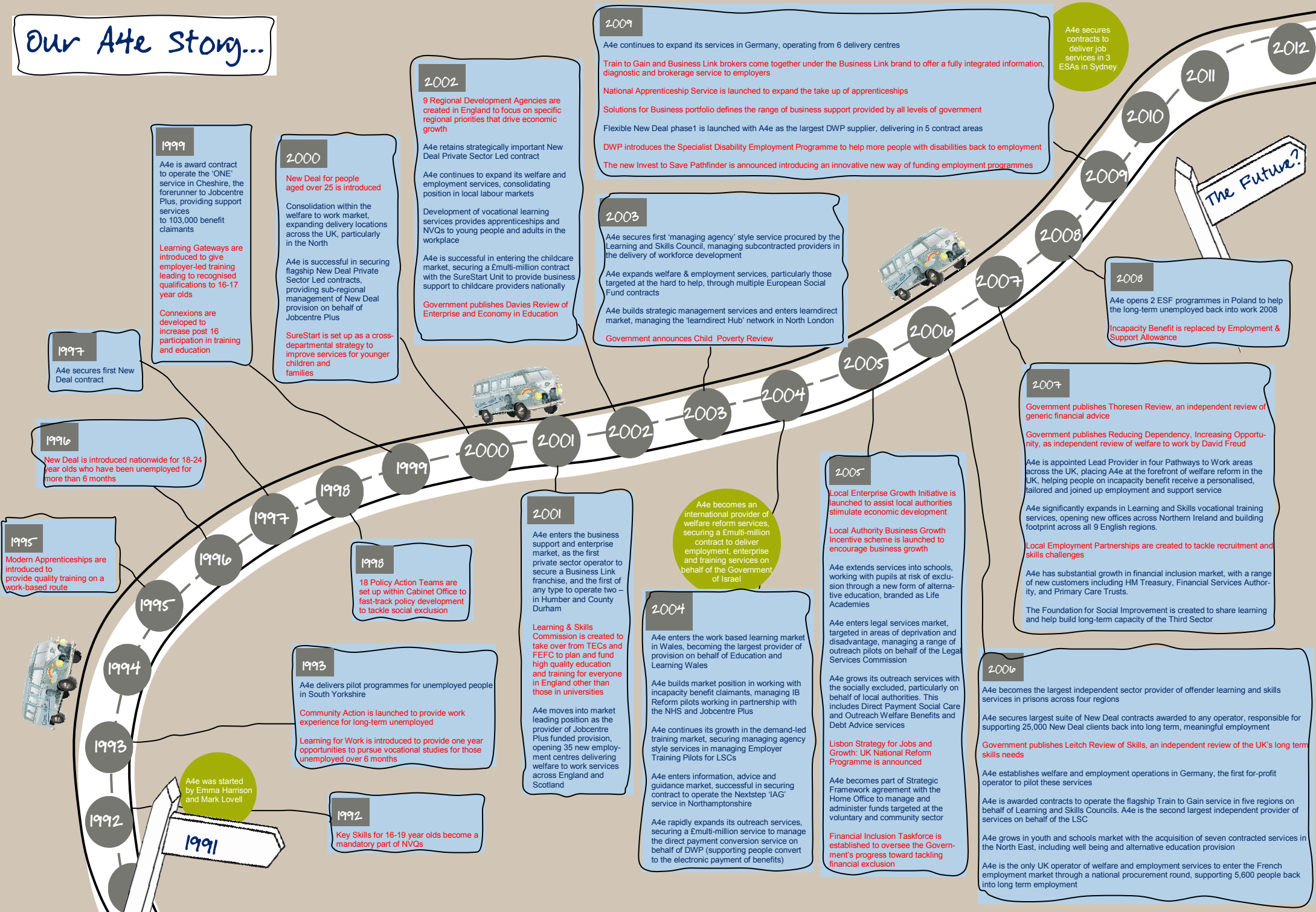


Our A4e Story...



1995
Modern Apprenticeships are introduced to provide quality training on a work-based route

1996
New Deal is introduced nationwide for 18-24 year olds who have been unemployed for more than 6 months

1997
A4e secures first New Deal contract

1999
A4e is awarded contract to operate the 'ONE' service in Cheshire, the forerunner to Jobcentre Plus, providing support services to 103,000 benefit claimants

Learning Gateways are introduced to give employer-led training leading to recognised qualifications to 16-17 year olds

Connexions are developed to increase post 16 participation in training and education

2000
New Deal for people aged over 25 is introduced

Consolidation within the welfare to work market, expanding delivery locations across the UK, particularly in the North

A4e is successful in securing flagship New Deal Private Sector Led contracts, providing sub-regional management of New Deal provision on behalf of Jobcentre Plus

SureStart is set up as a cross-departmental strategy to improve services for younger children and families

2002
9 Regional Development Agencies are created in England to focus on specific regional priorities that drive economic growth

A4e retains strategically important New Deal Private Sector Led contract

A4e continues to expand its welfare and employment services, consolidating position in local labour markets

Development of vocational learning services provides apprenticeships and NVQs to young people and adults in the workplace

A4e is successful in entering the childcare market, securing a £multi-million contract with the SureStart Unit to provide business support to childcare providers nationally

Government publishes Davies Review of Enterprise and Economy in Education

2001
A4e enters the business support and enterprise market, as the first private sector operator to secure a Business Link franchise, and the first of any type to operate two – in Humber and County Durham

Learning & Skills Commission is created to take over from TECs and FEFC to plan and fund high quality education and training for everyone in England other than those in universities

A4e moves into market leading position as the provider of Jobcentre Plus funded provision, opening 35 new employment centres delivering welfare to work services across England and Scotland

1993
A4e delivers pilot programmes for unemployed people in South Yorkshire

Community Action is launched to provide work experiences for long-term unemployed

Learning for Work is introduced to provide one year opportunities to pursue vocational studies for those unemployed over 6 months

1992
Key Skills for 16-19 year olds become a mandatory part of NVQs

A4e was started by Emma Harrison and Mark Lovell

2003
A4e secures first 'managing agency' style service procured by the Learning and Skills Council, managing subcontracted providers in the delivery of workforce development

A4e expands welfare & employment services, particularly those targeted at the hard to help, through multiple European Social Fund contracts

A4e builds strategic management services and enters leardirect market, managing the 'leardirect Hub' network in North London

Government announces Child Poverty Review

2004
A4e continues to expand its services in Germany, operating from 6 delivery centres

Train to Gain and Business Link brokers come together under the Business Link brand to offer a fully integrated information, diagnostic and brokerage service to employers

National Apprenticeship Service is launched to expand the take up of apprenticeships

Solutions for Business portfolio defines the range of business support provided by all levels of government

Flexible New Deal phase 1 is launched with A4e as the largest DWP supplier, delivering in 5 contract areas

DWP introduces the Specialist Disability Employment Programme to help more people with disabilities back to employment

The new Invest to Save Pathfinder is announced introducing an innovative new way of funding employment programmes

2004
A4e enters the work based learning market in Wales, becoming the largest provider of provision on behalf of Education and Learning Wales

A4e builds market position in working with incapacity benefit claimants, managing IB Reform pilots working in partnership with the NHS and Jobcentre Plus

A4e continues its growth in the demand-led training market, securing managing agency style services in managing Employer Training Pilots for LSCs

A4e enters information, advice and guidance market, successful in securing contract to operate the Nextstep 'IAG' service in Northamptonshire

A4e rapidly expands its outreach services, securing a £multi-million service to manage the direct payment conversion service on behalf of DWP (supporting people convert to the electronic payment of benefits)

A4e becomes an international provider of welfare reform services, securing a £multi-million contract to deliver employment, enterprise and training services on behalf of the Government of Israel

2005
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative is launched to assist local authorities stimulate economic development

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme is launched to encourage business growth

A4e extends services into schools, working with pupils at risk of exclusion through a new form of alternative education, branded as Life Academies

A4e enters legal services market, targeted in areas of deprivation and disadvantage, managing a range of outreach pilots on behalf of the Legal Services Commission

A4e grows its outreach services with the socially excluded, particularly on behalf of local authorities. This includes Direct Payment Social Care and Outreach Welfare Benefits and Debt Advice services

Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth: UK National Reform Programme is announced

A4e becomes part of Strategic Framework agreement with the Home Office to manage and administer funds targeted at the voluntary and community sector

2006
A4e becomes the largest independent sector provider of offender learning and skills services in prisons across four regions

A4e secures largest suite of New Deal contracts awarded to any operator, responsible for supporting 25,000 New Deal clients back into long term, meaningful employment

Government publishes Leitch Review of Skills, an independent review of the UK's long term skills needs

A4e establishes welfare and employment operations in Germany, the first for-profit operator to pilot these services

A4e is awarded contracts to operate the flagship Train to Gain service in five regions on behalf of Learning and Skills Councils. A4e is the second largest independent provider of services on behalf of the LSC

A4e grows in youth and schools market with the acquisition of seven contracted services in the North East, including well being and alternative education provision

A4e is the only UK operator of welfare and employment services to enter the French employment market through a national procurement round, supporting 5,600 people back into long term employment

2007
Government publishes Thoresen Review, an independent review of generic financial advice

Government publishes Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity, as independent review of welfare to work by David Freud

A4e is appointed Lead Provider in four Pathways to Work areas across the UK, placing A4e at the forefront of welfare reform in the UK, helping people on incapacity benefit receive a personalised, tailored and joined up employment and support service

A4e significantly expands in Learning and Skills vocational training services, opening new offices across Northern Ireland and building footprint across all 9 English regions.

Local Employment Partnerships are created to tackle recruitment and skills challenges

A4e has substantial growth in financial inclusion market, with a range of new customers including HM Treasury, Financial Services Authority, and Primary Care Trusts.

The Foundation for Social Improvement is created to share learning and help build long-term capacity of the Third Sector

2008
A4e opens 2 ESF programmes in Poland to help the long-term unemployed back into work 2008

Incapacity Benefit is replaced by Employment & Support Allowance

A4e secures contracts to deliver job services in 3 ESAs in Sydney

2012
The Future?