

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 15 December 2014
Paper Title	Self-Evaluation of 2013-14 Regional Outcome Agreement
Agenda Item	5
Paper Number	BM4-C
Responsible Officer	Glasgow Colleges' Strategic Partnership Principals Lead – Robin Ashton, ROA Coordinator & Director of Curriculum, Glasgow Kelvin College
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

1.1 Although Regional Outcome Agreements now have a three-yearly cycle there remains a requirement for college regions to report on the funding received in the preceding academic year and to submit an annual self-assessment report to the Scottish Funding Council each year. The draft self-evaluation of the 2013/14 Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) is attached.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is asked to approve the draft self-evaluation of the 2013/14 Glasgow ROA, subject to any proposed and agreed amendments.

3. Background

3.1 In order to deliver greater consistency in the outcome agreement process SFC has developed an annual outcome agreement funding cycle summarised in Appendix 1. Each year begins with a review of the progress made against the targets agreed in the previous ROA and the attached report represents the draft Glasgow Region 2013/14 ROA Self-Evaluation. The self-evaluation of the ROA is intended to help identify highlights and challenges from the preceding year while providing an opportunity to review and, where appropriate, revise milestones towards the agreed three-year targets.

3.2 The self-evaluation report for academic year 2013/14 concludes that overall the region's colleges have made effective progress across all four outcome areas. A range of evidence is provided to support this evaluation, including information on structural change, efficiency, curriculum review and development, attainment levels and employability related activity.

3.3 The report also identifies areas of further development, alongside proposing changes to the attainment targets set within the 2014/15 – 2016/17 ROA due to the improvements in regional attainment levels achieved in session 2013/14.

3.4 The evaluation has been undertaken by the Glasgow Colleges' Strategic Partnership (GCSP) Learning and Teaching Group in liaison with the SFC Regional Outcome Manager and the Advisor to the Regional Board. In addition this report will be considered by the three assigned college boards at their December 2014 meetings.

4. Risk Analysis

4.1 The attached self-evaluation report provides evidence that the region's colleges have successfully managed significant strategic and operational risks through the substantial progress made in terms of structural and curricular change in line with the policy direction of key stakeholders such as the Scottish Government, the Scottish Funding Council, Education Scotland, employers and community and educational partners.

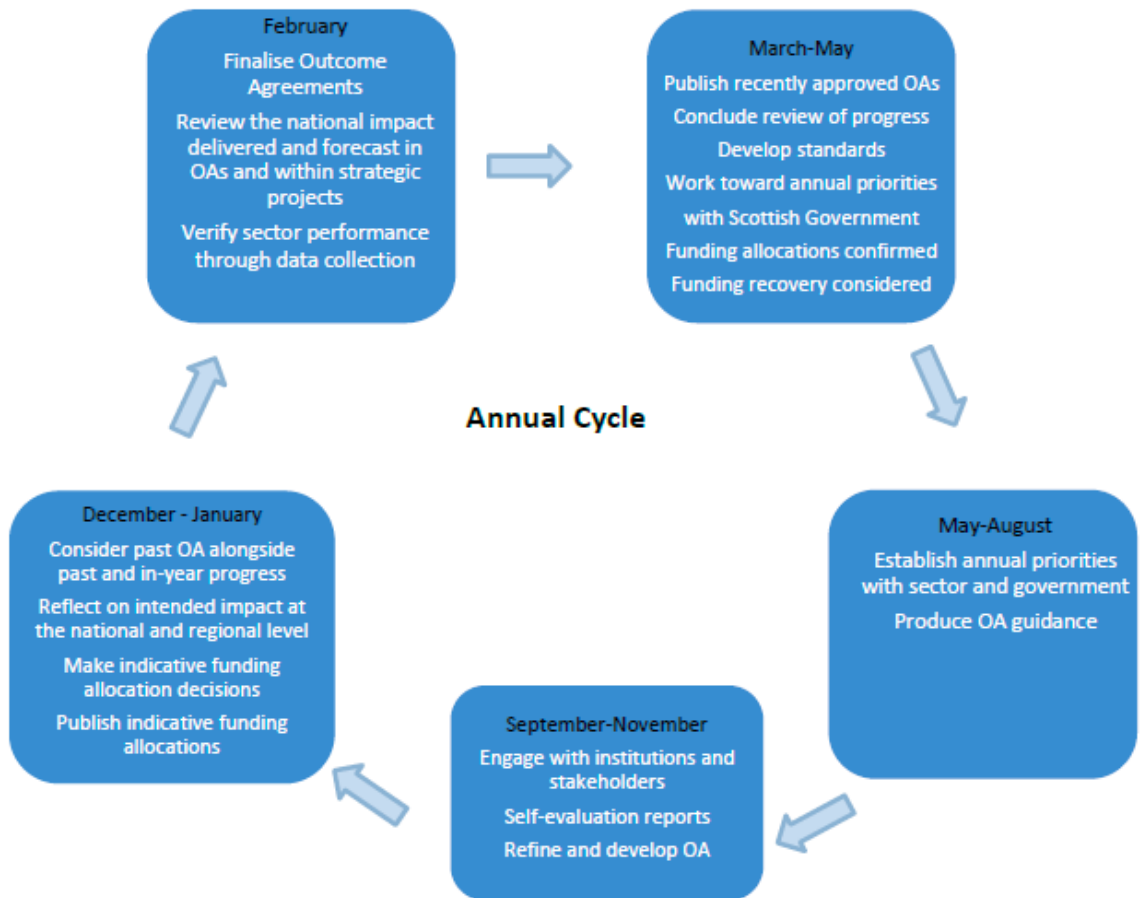
5. Legal Implications

5.1 No legal implications are identified.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There is a potential financial risk for the region if specified ROA outcomes and outputs are not effectively achieved. However, on the basis of the attached ROA self-evaluation, it is not anticipated that any financial implications exist.

Appendix 1. : Scottish Funding Council Annual Outcome Agreement Cycle



(Source: SFC College Outcome Agreement Guidance AY 2015-16, Annex A: Annual outcome agreement cycle)

Glasgow Colleges' Strategic Partnership

2013/14 Regional Outcome Agreement Self-Evaluation Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) requires college regions to provide on an annual basis a factual report evaluating progress and achievement of the region's Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) for the previous academic year.

1.2 SFC guidance requests that the report is brief and contains reflection on available audited statistical data, qualitative and quantitative progress in the preceding year, alongside any early thoughts on progress in the current year and the rationale for any proposed changes to targets in the draft outcome agreement.

1.3 This self-evaluation report has been prepared by the Glasgow Colleges' Strategic Partnership (GCSP) on behalf of Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board.

2. Priority Impact Evaluation

2.1 In terms of the high-level outcomes, the Glasgow Region 2013/14 ROA sought to deliver the following four regional priority impacts:

Outcome	Priority Impact
Efficient Regional Structures & Sustainable Institutions	An efficient, sustainable regional college structure that meets the needs of Glasgow and Scotland.
Right Learning in the Right Place	Fewer people in Glasgow and Scotland not in employment, education or training.

High Quality & Efficient Learning	More learners achieve qualifications and can progress to further study.
A Developed Workforce	More learners develop the appropriate skills needed to get a job, keep a job or get a better job.

2.2 The GCSP considers that overall it has made effective progress towards achievement of the above priority impacts based on the following rationale:

- 2.2.1 In terms of priority impact one, significant structural change has been made to the organisation of colleges across the region, with two new colleges formed from merger, reducing the number of colleges within the Glasgow Region from seven to three. In addition, all three colleges exceeded their student activity targets and achieved a 5.3% efficiency saving on the cost per hour delivered, whilst remaining financially sustainable.
- 2.2.2 With regard to Right Learning in the Right Place, in partnership with the SFC and with the agreement of the Regional Chair, Glasgow Region colleges undertook an in-depth evaluation of the regional curriculum offering in the context of a review of stakeholder needs. The resulting curriculum and estates review, *A Vision for College Learning*, suggested that whilst most of the curriculum we offer is well aligned to regional economic needs and the majority of delivery locations are appropriate, colleges could make changes to some subject volumes, types, modes and delivery locations which would enhance vocational relevance and support improved access for and social inclusion.
- 2.2.3 With respect to more learners achieving qualifications and progressing to work or further study, overall qualification achievement rates have increased by over 2% from 69.1% to 71.4%, with the proportion of full-time further education learners successfully achieving rising to 65.2%, representing an almost 10% increase over the past five-year period. Alongside this increase in success rates, post-course destination statistics collated in 2013/14 suggest that, of known leaver destinations, approximately 96% of Glasgow college learner progress into work or further study.
- 2.2.4 Finally, in regard to A Developed Workforce, Glasgow colleges supported over 2,000 Modern Apprenticeships and 6,000 employed learners to participate in college learning opportunities. Further, Glasgow City Council data shows that overall regional employment rates improved, with fewer people in Glasgow and Scotland not in employment, and the employment figures for young people aged 16 - 24 in Glasgow showed significant improvement (+7.4%) over 2012-13, compared to both the Scottish (-0.6%) and UK averages (+0.1%).

3. Self-Evaluation of Outcome 1: Efficient Regional Structures & Sustainable Institutions

3.1 The priority impact of this outcome was to develop an efficient, sustainable regional college structure that meets the needs of Glasgow and Scotland.

3.2 Intermediate level outcomes identified were:

- Colleges provide an efficient regional structure for regional and national partners to engage with.
- College are financially sustainable and provide efficient services.
- College estates are well-managed and maintained, fit for purpose and environmentally sustainable.

3.3 The GCSP has made substantial progress towards achieving the goals of this outcome.

3.4 As outlined, above, this includes substantial structural change relating to college mergers with the Scottish Funding Council six-month evaluation of Glasgow Clyde College and Glasgow Kelvin College mergers suggesting very good progress in implementing these mergers. As part of this merger activity, both Glasgow Clyde and Kelvin Colleges have been able to agree common sets of terms and conditions with support staff and Glasgow Kelvin College with teaching staff.

3.5 With respect to delivery of teaching activity, initial college data suggests that in 2013/14 the region exceeded its student activity target by 2.75%, in addition to achieving in full a target 5.3% efficiency saving on the value of cost per hours delivered. All colleges achieved this whilst remaining financially sustainable.

3.6 City of Glasgow New Campus Development project also continued to progress well and according to plan, with the opening of the both campuses on target to achieve planned dates, with the Riverside campus due to open in August 2015.

3.7 Glasgow Colleges Strategic Partnership also continued to develop its capacity to meet regional needs, including supporting the work of the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board through the creation of a Regional Development Coordinator role to facilitate partnership working between the new Regional Board and the Glasgow colleges.

4. Self-Evaluation of Outcome 2: Right Learning in the Right Place

3.1 The priority impact of this outcome was for there to be fewer people in Glasgow and Scotland not in employment, education or training.

3.2 Intermediate level outcomes identified were:

- Employer needs are met, economic growth sectors are supported and college learning leads to job opportunities and/or further training or education.
- People access a wide range of education and training courses in Glasgow.
- Young people study and train at Glasgow's colleges.
- People access flexible and inclusive college programmes and services.

3.3 The GCSP has made extensive progress towards achieving the goals of this outcome. As stated above, an in-depth evaluation of the regional curriculum offering has been undertaken and a curriculum and estates review, *A Vision for College Learning*, has been developed and is currently being consulted on.

3.4 In addition, 2013/14 activity data shows that the region's colleges were again effective in targeting full-time provision at learners aged 16-24 (maintaining the share of total activity for this age group at 71% of all FT learners) providing clear evidence of the region's commitment to enhancing learning opportunities for young learners and supporting delivery of *Opportunities for All*.

3.5 In terms of further development work, *The Vision for College Learning* includes plans relating to curriculum subject volumes and levels between 2015 and 2020. In addition, the report also proposes that once the city-centre new build is complete the Glasgow Kelvin City Campus, the oldest and poorest quality building within the Glasgow college estate, should be closed permanently at the conclusion of academic year 2016.

3.6 In response to the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce's *Education Working for All!* report, GCSP colleges have also worked collaboratively with the three regional local authorities to develop new pathways for senior phase pupils. Glasgow Colleges and Glasgow City Council were successful in gaining 'early adopter' funding from the SFC to develop the capacity of regional college and local authority structures to strategically direct and deliver enhanced school/college services and articulation. This work has led to the delivery of 3 full time college based courses for the Glasgow Schools Vocational Programme and development planning for a school/college partnership STEM Academy in 2015/16.

5. Self-Evaluation of Outcome 3: High Quality & Efficient Learning

3.7 The priority impact of this outcome was to support more learners to achieve qualifications and to progress to further study.

3.8 Intermediate level outcomes identified were:

- Learners sustain their learning and achieve qualifications.
- Learners progress to positive destinations.
- Young people access college courses as part of the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Learners progress efficiently onto degree level provision.
- Glasgow's colleges have effective arrangements to maintain and improve the quality of learning and are delivering high quality learning experiences.

3.9 The GCSP has made significant progress towards achieving the goals of this outcome. As outlined earlier, regional achievement rates for all learners have risen by approximately 2% from 69.1% to 71.4%. Within this data set, achievement levels for all four mode/level categories show an improvement in successful achievement rates, as illustrated below.

Mode/Level	2012/13	2013/14	Change
Full-time Further Education	62%	65%	3%
Part-time Further Education	70%	73%	3%
Full-time Higher Education	71%	73%	2%
Full-time Higher Education	75%	79%	4%

3.10 In terms of 3-year trends, only part-time Further Education has declined (by 1%) with all other mode/level categories showing an improvement of 3%.

3.11 Glasgow colleges are committed to improving attainment levels and closing the gap between regional and national success rates. Due to the increase in 2013/14 regional attainment levels shown above, 2014/15 – 2016/17 Regional Outcome Agreement targets for attainment have been altered to reflect this new benchmark position and the commitment to improve these Further Education success rates by at least 3% and Higher Education attainment by at least 1.5% by 2016/17 retained.

3.12 With respect to articulation to university courses with advanced standing, final data for 2012/13 is still being calculated and will be analysed in the final version ROA. Glasgow colleges have continued to work both individually and collectively to increase the number of college learners articulating. In 2013/14, this work included successfully delivering in full college allocations for additional funded articulation places, in addition to developing further college strategic agreements for articulation with Glasgow Region universities.

3.13 GCSP colleges have also continued to develop their quality enhancement and learner engagement activities and substantial evidence of this has been provided within college

reports on institution led review and through participation in Education Scotland annual engagement activity.

6. Self-Evaluation of Outcome 4: A Developed Workforce

3.14 The priority impact of this outcome was to support more learners to develop the appropriate skills needed to get a job, keep a job or get a better job.

3.15 Intermediate level outcomes identified were:

- People are job ready and able to access a range of employment opportunities.
- Colleges identify and respond to the needs of local, regional and national employers.
- People can access apprenticeship opportunities.

3.16 The GCSP considers that it has made considerable progress towards achieving the goals of this outcome. Glasgow colleges worked directly with over 2,000 employers and approximately 6,500 employees participated in college learning opportunities. In addition, extensive regional curriculum review activity included direct consultation with a range of employers, representative bodies and stakeholders.

3.17 Through portfolio review processes, colleges continued in 2013/14 to increase the proportion of courses leading to accredited and vocationally relevant qualifications by over 3.5% from 68.2% to 71.9% of all enrolments.

3.18 Glasgow colleges continued to develop Modern Apprenticeship (MA) opportunities, and in 2013/14 the region supported approximately 600 MAs with the college as managing agent and 1,500 for which the college has been subcontracted to deliver.

3.19 In terms of places offered as part of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) funded employability activity, the number of SDS places delivered in 2013/14 fell from approximately 400 in 2012/13 to around 350 in 2013/14. Glasgow colleges will present a coordinated region wide bid to SDS for 2015/16 funding and seek to increase SDS partnership work in future years.

3.20 Glasgow colleges provided additional learning opportunities to approximately 80 full-time learners between January – June 2014, as part of an 18 month SFC led, European Social Fund Priority 5 'Skills for a Competitive Workforce' project. This activity was designed in partnership local Community Planning Partnerships and aligned to regional economic needs and will be extended significantly in 2014/15.

3.21 With respect to resident levels of economic participation, Glasgow City Council report that employment levels for Glasgow City rose from 59.8% to 65.2% in the 2012/13 period, with the rate for young people aged 16 - 24 in Glasgow showing significant improvement (+7.4%) over 2012/13, compared to both the Scottish (-0.6%) and UK averages (+0.1%).