

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 29 October 2018
Paper Title	Regional Collaboration Update
Agenda Item	16
Paper Number	BM1-P
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Endorsement

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1** To provide an update on regional collaboration activity being undertaken to deliver the goals of the Glasgow Region Strategic Plan for College Education.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Board is invited to **consider** this report on regional collaborative activity and **endorse** the evidence it provides of progress towards the achievement of regional strategic goals;

3. Update on Regional Lead Activity

- 3.1** The four Regional Leads who took up their responsibilities in August 2017, are continuing to progress regional strategic aims in their second year in post. Following regional discussions, the Regional Leads have identified the year 2 outputs related to the regional objectives agreed by the GCRB Board in September 2017 and these are set out in the table below.

Regional Lead	Regional Objectives	Year 2 Ambitions
CPD Lead	We will create a regional learning community, which promotes self-directed development and provides for all staff access to a comprehensive regional CPD offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver a calendar of joint CPD activity for professional learning to be offered throughout the three colleges from October 2018 to May 2019. To deliver three key initiatives which share and develop skills and knowledge across colleges and schools (Classroom connection, Know your college and informing the informers).

Regional Lead	Regional Objectives	Year 2 Ambitions
Student Data and Student Experience Leads	We will reduce barriers to access and enhance opportunities for inter-college progression. We will develop a regional approach to student data management to support the quality and impact of this information on services provided to learners and stakeholders, supporting improved learner outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review admissions arrangements and develop and implement access improvement proposals which promote access to the full Glasgow regional curriculum, and increase rates of progression between Glasgow colleges
Student Experience Lead	We will create common student support policies, whilst still allowing local flexibility to need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the recently established Regional Student Funding Forum, develop and implement consistent approaches to inclusive student services.
Developing the Young Workforce and Foundation Apprenticeship Leads	We will deliver more coherent Senior Phase pathways and extend early intervention approaches so that all regional school pupils can experience college before they make their Senior Phase subject choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to review and improve the monitoring of Senior Phase performance and learner outcomes. To support approaches and interventions to address subject gender imbalances. To work jointly with the CPD Regional Lead to develop opportunities for school and college staff to share practice and develop their understanding of vocational learning pathways.

3.2 Regional Leads have developed more detailed operational plans for the above year two ambitions, with more specific outputs, timescales and reporting arrangements.

3.3 In addition, to the above activity new regional leads have been established to lead regional collaboration in relation to Attainment, Articulation and STEM. Across all three areas, initial work is underway to jointly review current activity and performance. This will be used as a basis to collectively develop regional initiatives and these will be reported to the GCRB Board at its next meeting. Alongside the outcomes set out within the Regional Outcome Agreement and college levels plans, the GCRB Board agreed an operational planning framework which included Regional Leads responsible for taking forwards collaborative work.

3.4 At its October 2017 meeting, the GCRB Board considered Year 1 objectives developed by Regional Leads. This report provides a progress update on these Year 1 objectives.

4. Joint Boards Development Event

- 4.1** The first joint Glasgow Boards development event was held in September this year, with 44 people attending overall, including 26 Board Members and 15 members of staff.
- 4.2** The event focused on diversity and considered ways the 4 boards could collaborate on initiatives to improve their diversity. A presentation from Councillor Jennifer Layden, Glasgow City Council Convener for Equalities and Human Rights, illustrated the significant extent of Glasgow's diversity and the benefits that this brings to the city. Helen Wright from Changing the Chemistry and Ian Bruce from the Office of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards highlighted evidence of good practice in terms of increasing board diversity and both offered to assist further with any initiatives.
- 4.3** The event provided an opportunity for group discussion and suggestions from participants to increase diversity included:
- jointly holding information events with the potential to take a 'roadshow' approach to events in local areas in future;
 - drawing more on the support of regional networks and groups;
 - producing a shared information leaflet encouraging participation in board activity;
 - developing a shared online presence with links from the different boards' web pages which would include positive information about the role, the impact of Glasgow colleges on communities and the economy, and interviews with a diverse range of board members; and
 - collaborating on standardised recruitment approaches where appropriate, for example, equalities forms for applicants.
- 4.4** The event also provided an opportunity for members to consider suggestions for future joint board events and other ways the four boards could collaborate and support each other. A further joint boards event is being planned for next year by the four board secretaries.

5. Foundation Apprenticeship Delivery

- 5.1** The regional Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) programme is now entering its third year of delivery, with recruitment completed for courses starting in August 2018.
- 5.2** For 2018 the Glasgow Region is offering study opportunities in additional frameworks for Accountancy, Food and Drink Technologies and Scientific Technologies. Whilst two year programmes remain the largest mode of delivery (with 248 young people enrolled in 2018 start programmes), a 1-year option is becoming more favoured with 55 enrolled on these shorter, more concentrated options.
- 5.3** Overall, enrolment numbers continue to grow on a steady basis and as a regional consortium, Glasgow is above the national average in terms of recruitment activity. However, SDS have very ambitious targets for FA growth and they are to carry out a strong FA marketing campaign with radio and TV advertising to enhance the profile of the FA. Existing FA students will be the main contributors for both the radio and TV advertising campaign.

6. Skills Alignment/Curriculum Planning Pilot with SFC/SDS

- 6.1** To support the aim of the Enterprise and Skills Board that there is greater alignment and collaborative working across skills development and training agencies staff from GCRB, Glasgow's colleges, SFC and SDS are working on a pilot to develop a combined curriculum planning model for Glasgow.
- 6.2** To date this has involved the establishment of a steering group formed of representatives from SFC, SDS, the Glasgow Colleges and GCRB and initial activity to work through a '5-step skills planning and provision model' related to the Glasgow context. Annex A to this paper sets out an overview as to how the 5 step model may be applied to the Glasgow College Region curriculum review process.
- 6.3** To take forwards 'Step 1: Skills Demand Assessment' work has been undertaken to collate and analyse data on curriculum supply delivered by the three Glasgow colleges and to begin to assess its alignment to economic and employment demand. SFC/GCRB are leading on the development of appropriate training supply data and SDS are leading on the collation of employment demand information.
- 6.4** To develop a consensus on skills alignment across the Glasgow Region, and to ensure we maximise the knowledge and expertise of college curriculum managers, a curriculum hub event was arranged for college staff and SDS, SFC and GCRB representatives to consider aspects of GCRB funded curriculum supply volumes in the context of recently published regional skills assessment data. This event provided a useful starting point for planned more detailed discussions with individual curriculum hubs and sector skills managers from SDS.

7. Ministerial Visit to Glasgow College Region

- 7.1** At short notice, on October 9th, Richard Lochhead, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science visited the Glasgow College Region. His visit was hosted at Glasgow Clyde College at its Langside Campus and this enabled the Minister to meet with both regional representatives and college staff and learners. A productive introductory session provided an opportunity to discuss national and regional issues, and following this, the Minister met some of the students and staff involved in collaborative regional activity to hear about the impact of regional initiatives on their learning and work.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1** This report provides evidence of collaborative activity being undertaken to support the delivery of GCRB's strategic ambitions. It therefore mitigates risks related to the achievement strategic goals and fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1** No equalities implications are identified.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1** No legal implications are identified.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 No significant resource needs are identified at present.

12. Strategic Implications

12.1 This report describes collaborative activity being undertaken to ensure delivery of all the strategic ambitions set out within the Glasgow Region Strategic Plan for College Education.

Annex A: High level plan for the development of a Combined Curriculum Planning Pilot within the Glasgow College Region

Key development prompt	How well does our combined curriculum supply align to current and future employment needs?	How can our combined curriculum better meet employment needs?	How can our joint investment maximise impact on skills training needs?	How can we better assess delivery of strategic goals and more efficient and effective delivery?	How well do our learners achieve qualifications and progress to work or further study?
5 step skills planning and provision model	1 Skills Demand Assessment	2 Provision Planning	3 Coordination of ROAs and Training Provider Commissioning	4 Performance monitoring	5 Review and Evaluation
Strategic aims	The alignment of skills training supply to current and future employment demand is robustly considered.	A more coherent and responsive regional curriculum plan is developed across skills training providers.	Duplication, overlap and gaps are formally considered across the planned skills investment by SFC and SDS.	Greater evidence of curriculum alignment to needs and a more coherent overview of collective impact of public investment in skills training.	More effective sharing of learning across agencies, and stronger consensus on, and collective ownership of, future improvement priorities.
Potential pilot initiatives	An evaluation of the alignment of skills training supply to employment demand, informed by sector based discussions involving SDS sector leads and college Faculty Heads.	The development of a regional curriculum plan within the Glasgow ROA determining curriculum mix/subject volumes aligned to regional skills assessment - led by college region but supported by SDS/SFC.	The alignment of SDS commissioning activity with SFC Credit funding, leading towards a more coherent allocation of funding for college teaching/ learning activity for the Glasgow college region.	The development of a single monitoring framework across qualification routes (e.g. Credits, FA/MA/GA, etc.) which includes volume targets, places to be delivered and learner outcome measures.	A single regional review of performance across Credit and SDS Commissioned activity, supported by individual college reviews developed within Education Scotland quality review arrangements.
Potential timings	August - October	November - January	January - March	October, December, March, June	July - October