

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 25 March 2019
Paper Title	Regional Collaboration Update
Agenda Item	17
Paper Number	BM3-Q
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. STEM Development

- 3.1** A further meeting of the Glasgow regional STEM Hub was held in January 2019, with representation across colleges, education services, universities, SDS, and Glasgow Science centre. The hub are establishing task and finish groups to progress joint curriculum planning and are exploring other opportunities for collaborative work. As an example, Glasgow City Council have offered to open up STEMfest to allow those involved in the Hub the opportunity to engage and contribute. In addition, the hub is considering how it will engage effectively on a regional basis with the newly appointed Education Scotland regional STEM Advisors.

4. Developing the Young Workforce

- 4.1** Building on the success of the regional Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) programme, SDS, GCRB and the Glasgow colleges are working jointly on two areas as opportunities for pilot activity which would extend the opportunity of FA type learning to Senior Phase pupils who currently do not participate in standard FA delivery. These pilots will be provide new learning opportunities at SCQF level 4/5 for school pupils and at level 6 for college learners.
- 4.2** These developments will deliver greater alignment of current skills training supply to employment needs, converting existing course delivery into more employment relevant and

modern qualifications with an enhanced range of post-course progression opportunities. SDS will provide funding to the Glasgow College Region for additional staff resources to support the identification of partner employers and course development and coordination.

5. Widening Access

5.1 Following the successful delivery of a regional articulation pathways project with the University of Glasgow and the Glasgow College Region, the Regional Lead for articulation has led the development of a similar partnership with Strathclyde University for 2019-20. The first cohort will enable social science students at Glasgow Clyde College to articulate directly to year 2 degrees at Strathclyde University.

5.2 The Regional Leads for Student Experience and Student Data held a meeting in February with GCRB and college colleagues to progress the establishment of guaranteed articulation pathways allowing seamless transitions across the Glasgow College Region. Initially, this work will focus on pathways related to courses offered in colleges where no progression route exists (either at NC or HNC) with around a dozen course areas now identified.

6. Quality Enhancement

6.1 The newly formed Regional Improvement Group met and agreed to focus on a single curricular area as a basis for joint analysis, sharing of practice and development and testing out of improvement actions. The group have decided to work across Sport and Leisure orientated courses, as all three colleges are involved in delivering this area and the regional performance is below national or sector benchmarks.

6.2 The Regional Lead for DYW provided a report to a range of internal and external groups reviewing regional performance data for school/college activity in 2017-18. The report highlighted the overall increases made in attainment levels, alongside identifying areas for further improvement. This enabled joint discussion and identification of quality enhancement actions relating to both overall performance and increasing gender balance on courses.

7. Skills Alignment

7.1 As part of ongoing activity to improve skills alignment, GCRB is engaging with a newly formed Financial Services Employers Group organised jointly by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). SDS have engaged across a range of Financial Services employers (including Barclays, JP Morgan, HSBC, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, and Tesco Bank) to develop a skills training demand statement. Based on this information GCRB is liaising across the three colleges to draw together potential training opportunities for college students, school leavers and graduates/career changers. It is hoped that the closer partnership with employers will support a more aligned curriculum offer, including improved access to work placements and guaranteed interviews for successful completing college learners.

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.