
Performance & Resources Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 29 September 2021
Paper Title	Delegated Decisions
Agenda Item	6
Paper Number	PRC1-B
Responsible Officer	Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1.** To notify the Committee of two decisions made under revised delegated decision-making procedures agreed by the Board in June 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Committee is invited to **note** decisions relating to:
- allocated targets for Flexible Workforce Development to each Glasgow college for 2021-22; and
 - allocation of additional funds for counsellors to each college in Glasgow for 2021-22.

3. Background

- 3.1.** Under the procedure for the delegation of decision-making powers approved by the Board in June 2021, the Board Chair may decide, in consultation with the Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee, whether a decision on allocation of additional SFC funds may be made by the Executive Director, or the Performance & Resources Committee, or referred to the full Board.
- 3.2.** The Executive Director alerted the Board Chair to two SFC announcements in August concerning Flexible Workforce Development Funds, and funding for Mental Health Counsellors.
- 3.3.** In both cases the funding allocation was time-specific, and the Executive Director confirmed that the College Principals supported the proposed allocation of funds. On that basis, the Chair of the Board determined, further to consultation with the PRC Chair that the allocations were non-contentious and the allocation decisions should be made and implemented by the Executive Director.
- 3.4.** In line with the agreed procedure, the Board was notified by email of the Executive Director's decision, and both the Board and the Performance and Resources Committee will note and record the decisions at their next meeting.
- A more detailed report on each of the funding allocations has been saved onto BoardEffect for Members' reference.
<https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1301978>
<https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1301975>
 - A summary of the funds' purposes and decisions made is provided below.

4. Flexible Workforce Development Funding

- 4.1.** The amounts allocated to the Glasgow college region for 2021-22 are similar to 2020-21 i.e.
- £2,440,224 – Levy Paying employers
 - £428,270 – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- 4.2.** The allocation of funding to the Glasgow colleges is on the same same basis as previous years, which results in the following distributions.

Flexible Workforce Fund 2021-22 (Levy Payers)	City of Glasgow College £'000	Glasgow Clyde College £'000	Glasgow Kelvin College £'000	Total £'000
Initial allocation	£1,137	£803	£500	£2,440

Flexible Workforce Fund 2021-22 (SMEs)	City of Glasgow College £'000	Glasgow Clyde College £'000	Glasgow Kelvin College £'000	Total £'000
Initial allocation	£199	£141	£88	£428

4.3. The allocations outlined represent the maximum amounts that can be claimed by each college. Funding is paid to each college when delivery of a course commences.

4.4. It is important to note that all training (within the 2021-22 allocation) must be contractually agreed by 31 July 2022 and must commence by 31 August 2022. There is one change to the allocation for 2021-22 relating to the carry forward of activity from 2020-21. The latest SFC guidance advises that activity, that was not contractually agreed at 31 July 2021, must be delivered from within the 2021-22 allocation. The effect of this change is to prevent the carried forward of an underspend to a future year (for non-contracted activity).

5. Mental Health Counsellors

5.1. The Scottish Funding Council has provided £404,500 of funding to the Glasgow college region for 2021-22. This is sufficient to employ 7.75 counsellors in 2021-22. The amount of funding provided for each counsellor is therefore £52,194.

5.2. In each of the previous two years, GCRB agreed to allocate the funding equally to all 3 colleges (after meeting the cost of the Togetherall on-line service from March 2020 to February 2022).

5.3. The SFC guidance no longer permits the use of future funding for the Togetherall service. However, GCRB did agree to allocate funding (from the separate allocation for mental health in 2021-22) to ensure that this service can continue throughout the academic year.

5.4. It has been determined that each college is allocated £134,833.33 in 2021-22. This amount provides sufficient resources to enable each college to employ 2.58 FTE counsellors in 2021-22 (an increase of 0.27 FTE per college).

6. Risk & Compliance Implications

6.1. Revised decision-making arrangements are designed to minimise risk (002) that “GCRB does not develop/maintain effective working relationships with key external stakeholders”.

6.2. The provision of additional funding mitigates the risk that ‘Financial Sustainability is jeopardised by a reduction in funding and/or an increase in costs’ (Risk 008).

6.3. With regard to FWDF funding, the amounts allocated for 2021-22 are in addition to the amounts previously contracted that had not been delivered by 31 July 2021 (over £1.7m). It will be challenging for colleges to deliver the backlog of training and, the additional allocation of funding, in 2021-22 (up to £4.5m of total activity).

6.4. The provision of additional funding for counsellors contributes to ‘learners achieve positive outcomes’ (Risk 007).

7. Equalities Implications

7.1. The provision of additional funding for counsellors supports equalities aims.

8. Finance and Resource Implications

8.1. Financial and resource implications are outlined in the report.

9. Learner Implications

9.1. The curriculum delivery, supported by these funds, will provide significant support to the achievement of ambitions set out in the Glasgow Region Strategic Plan. Delivery supported by the Flexible Workforce Fund makes a significant contribution to meeting the aim of meeting Glasgow's ambitions working with employers to deliver a range and depth of training opportunities.