Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 19 December 2018
Paper Title	Developing regional approaches to student data management
Agenda Item	9
Paper Number	PRC2-D
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Purpose

1.1   To provide members of the Committee with a further update on the development of regional approaches to student data management.

2. Recommendations

2.1   The Committee is asked to:

- **consider** the attached paper developed by Regional Leads, and agreed by the Glasgow Colleges Group, which outlines how the colleges will progress actions to meet regional strategic objectives related to student data management; and

- **request** an update on the implementation of the proposals at a future meeting of the Committee or GCRB Board.

3. Update on the development of regional approaches to student data management

3.1   Members will recall that Committee meetings in 2017-18 considered reports relating to the re-procurement of college student data systems and that following committee discussion, it had been agreed that MIS procurement activity would be taken forwards separately by the colleges and that a paper would be would be developed setting out proposals which would progress the achievement of regional aims.

3.2   The paper attached at Annex A was developed by the Regional Leads for Student Data, Learning and Teaching and Student Experience, and it was considered and approved by the Glasgow Colleges Group in November.

3.3   Members are asked to consider the proposals and note the assurance that this gives that coordinated actions will now be undertaken to meet regional strategic objectives related to student data management.

4. Risk assessment

4.1 The proposals contained in the attached paper will reduce the likelihood and impact of the following GCRB identified risks:

- *a failure to effectively plan/monitor our educational delivery results in the curriculum not meeting regional economic and social needs; and*
- *failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs.*
- *opportunities are missed/not resourced appropriately and the potential to add value via the strategic plan is overlooked;*

5. Equalities Implications

5.1 No equalities implications are identified at present.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 No significant legal implications are identified. However, the implementation of new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will continue to impact on regional data management.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 There may be resource requirements related to implementing the proposals, particularly in relation to the further development of curriculum maps. As the proposals are implemented, resource needs will be more definitely identified, and as suggested within the attached paper, support will be sought from partners such as Scottish Government, SDS or SFC.

8. Strategic Plan Implications

8.1 The proposal set out in Annex A will progress regional strategic aims to widen access to the full regional curriculum, to deliver seamless learner pathways and to improve regional reporting.

8.2 These regional aims align closely to the ambitions and recommendations of the Scottish Government's Learner Journey Review, and implementation of the college proposals will provide therefore evidence of the commitment and contribution of the Glasgow College Region to the achievement of national priorities.

Annex A: College Proposals for the Development of Regional Approaches to Student Data Management

This paper outlines steps Glasgow Colleges will take towards shared regional strategic aims to widen learner choice and create seamless learner journeys across the Glasgow College Region, and to deliver more effective regional curriculum planning and monitoring.

Strategic Aim 1: Creating Seamless Learner Journeys
We will support more efficient learner journeys, including seamless inter-college progression. Flexible learning pathways across the region will support successful progression, with learning records transferring with students if they move from college to college within Glasgow. We will also enable opportunities for further regional collaboration on areas such as admissions and student support.

Proposal 1: Agreeing guaranteed articulation pathways

The regional Learning and Teaching Group with its Curriculum Hubs, and the Regional Leads for Student Experience and Student Data will lead the extension of work undertaken previously to map and develop pathways across the Glasgow region curriculum.

Guaranteed articulation agreements will be developed so that students on specific programmes at one college can progress seamlessly to programmes at the next level at another college. Initially, this work will focus on identifying 'dead ends' within the regional curriculum – those NC/Q courses and HNC courses where a progression route is not available within a providing college. Regional articulation arrangements will then be developed to support progression of these learners. These new curriculum pathways will be developed by the regional Learning and Teaching Group and its Curriculum Hub.

In addition, the Regional Student Experience and Student Data Leads will work collaboratively with college staff to develop arrangements which promote and maximise opportunity for seamless transition, including developing arrangements to transfer student data, such as previous and pending qualifications, to the new college so that these do not need to be re-supplied by the learner and re-entered by the receiving college.

Proposal 2: Aligning admissions processes and reporting

The Scottish Government's Learner Journey Review (published May 2018) set out a series of national recommendations towards improving students' experience of applying to college. These included a common dataset and common timetable for applications processes and, in the longer term, linking a student's single online learner account via My World of Work to different college application processes.

The colleges will collaborate on aligning aspects of application processes, within the context of these national recommendations and developments. This will ensure a consistent experience for applicants while retaining colleges' local flexibility and responsiveness in how they engage with the needs of different groups of applicants. This will include the development of a common layout for application forms across the region, and consideration of a standard timetable for offers. This regional standardisation will also support better reporting on demand for places.

Proposal 3: Connecting student records across colleges and partners

The colleges will engage with Scottish Government, SDS and other partners such as SQA and the new Sector Strategic IS/IT group, and take a lead role in developing the kind of the joined-up applications systems outlined in the Learner Journey Review report. Glasgow colleges will seek both to benefit from government investment in this area and to influence the direction of such development.

As an example of what might be achieved, proposals have been made several times for a system which could download a student's learner history direct from SQA – this could be at the point of application, to save the student having to re-key this information, or after application, to assist colleges in assessing applications. This kind of link has clear potential benefits for learners and colleges but cannot be delivered without collaboration.

To take forwards this proposal, the colleges will actively engage with emerging Scottish Government structures created to support delivery of the Learner Journey Review recommendations.

Strategic Aim 2: Widening Access and Learner Choice
We will enhance learner choice and provide learners with access to the full regional curriculum. We will promote regional curriculum pathways and increased access to the course offers across the three Glasgow colleges (e.g. by linking college application processes with regional curriculum maps).

Proposal 4: Connecting the Curriculum Maps

Regional Curriculum maps for full-time courses were developed in 2015/16. They provided a high-level, generalised picture of vocational progression pathways and study options across the region and were well received by stakeholders, particularly local authority education services, parents and pupils. These were static PDF documents, designed and prepared offline. Whilst students and other stakeholders could use these documents to explore the curriculum, there was no direct link between the curriculum maps and the live course offerings on the college website, and often no link between the live courses on the website and the curriculum maps.

The colleges will work collaboratively through Curriculum Hub groupings to refresh the curriculum maps to reflect our current portfolio.

The Curriculum Maps could then be developed into a digital, online format which links to the colleges' live curriculum offerings, enabling prospective students and other stakeholders to 'click through' the curriculum maps to visit live up-to-date information and application details on the college's own website. This will give the student a view of where a course offering sits within the regional curriculum and the progression pathways available and would also allow links from the college's website to the curriculum map. This approach can support the implementation of the SG Learner Journey Review; the colleges will therefore seek resources and support from strategic partners (SFC, SDS, SQA) to develop this kind of resource.

Some elements are already in place e.g. qualification aims, SCQF levels and economic sector. Adding a new, simple, coding structure would allow courses to be identified with specific branches of a curriculum map. There may also be opportunities to develop the connected curriculum maps in the context of the Learner Journey Review and the SDS My World of Work portal.

Strategic Aim 3: Improving Data Reporting and Analysis
We will support and inform curriculum planning and delivery through high quality data reporting which allows analysis of a single data set at college and regional levels. This will encompass the ability to analyse data relating to in-year and future-year curriculum plans, and provide enhanced reporting and monitoring of student outcomes. We will also encourage greater standardisation of data across the four Glasgow organisations and use of data analytics, particularly to support improved learner outcomes. Enhanced performance monitoring will support a clearer line of sight between outcomes and strategic aims (e.g. through dashboard functionality).

Proposal 5: Developing A Regional Reporting System

The MIS teams at the three colleges have been working together for some time to establish standard definitions and usage of data for ROA planning and monitoring. In-year ROA activity monitoring is currently via manual completion of a spreadsheet proforma at each college which is then collated centrally. SFC have provided collated regional data in the past but only after the session has ended.

The colleges will explore the development of a shared reporting service. This type of system could 'pull' an agreed set of data from existing college systems into a central repository, on a schedule, as the basis for sharing of regional datasets. The work, on this and other proposals, will include consideration of any potential student data privacy issues.

The Regional Lead for Student Data will lead work with colleagues to develop a specification for such a data-sharing system. The colleges would continue to work together to develop common data standards to support data sharing, initially based on the common FES standard but also looking at aligning other types of data, outwith the FES standard, to support advance curriculum planning.