

Board Meeting

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| Date of Meeting | Monday 28 January 2019 |
| Paper Title | Regional Collaboration Update |
| Agenda Item | 15 |
| Paper Number | BM2-U |
| 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** The Scottish Government's STEM Education and Training Strategy published in October 2017, set out an expectation that each region would have a STEM Hub to provide a forum for STEM collaboration and development. The GCRB Executive Director established the Glasgow STEM Hub in June 2018, and this is now being taken forwards by Joanna Campbell, Vice Principal at City of Glasgow College, who is a Regional Lead for STEM. A further meeting of the Glasgow STEM Hub was recently held, with representation across colleges, education services, universities, SDS, and Glasgow Science centre and the group is establishing an accurate baseline of STEM engagement activity across the region, as a basis for the identification of joint development priorities. A national forum for regional STEM Hub leads has also been established with its first meeting held in October 2018.

- 3.2** Alongside STEM Hub discussions, the Glasgow Colleges and GCRB are working with the STEM Foundation (formerly the New Engineering Foundation) to revise and renew regional and college STEM strategies within the STEM Foundation assurance framework. This work will align to the Scottish Government's STEM strategic goals and a revised regional STEM strategy is currently being drafted. Across October and November, accreditation inspection visits were undertaken by the STEM Foundation and the colleges are now awaiting feedback on re-accreditation.

4. Continuous Professional Development

- 4.1** The Regional Lead for Continuous Professional Development is leading a programme of regional CPD opportunities delivered by the three colleges and open to all staff across the region.
- 4.2** An all-staff briefing publicised the programme and Solution Focussed training was delivered by Glasgow Kelvin College in December and training on Emotional Intelligence was provided by City of Glasgow College in January. Both events were well attended and participants included staff from across all three colleges.
- 4.3** The Regional Leads for DYW and CPD are leading three initiatives to provide opportunities for school and college staff to share and develop their skills, knowledge and experience, and to support closer alignment between college and school delivery. Since October, three 'Informing the Informers' events have been run, targeted at school staff involved in pupil guidance and progression. The impact of the sessions is now being evaluated to inform future engagement activity. Focus on delivering classroom connections to facilitate the pairing of staff with school contacts to share learning and teaching approaches.

5. Widening Access

- 5.1** The November meeting of the regional Learning and Teaching Group received a progress update from the University of Glasgow on the new articulation pathways project being developed across the Glasgow Region colleges. The initiative was jointly developed by the University of Glasgow and GCRB and is being part-funded by a strategic grant from SFC. To date 22 science students at Glasgow Kelvin College are due to articulate to Glasgow University in June 2019, with cohorts of social science and engineering students due to start at Glasgow Clyde College and City of Glasgow College in August 2019.
- 5.2** The Glasgow colleges and GCRB have been meeting with FOCUS West, a long-running nationally funded access to Higher Education project, to discuss progression support for school pupils within the Glasgow College Region. The development of a progression agreement which would widen access for learners to Glasgow's colleges from low progression schools is currently being considered.

6. Quality Enhancement

- 6.1** Meetings at each of the Glasgow Colleges were held with Education Scotland, SFC and GCRB to consider college drafts of their quality evaluative reviews and enhancement plans. The meetings provided a useful opportunity to consider college contributions to Regional Outcome Agreement goals and areas of development which support regional strategic ambitions. Currently, Education Scotland and the SFC are considering the final reports for their endorsement and this process is expected to be completed by the end of January 2019.
- 6.2** The Glasgow colleges committed to establishing a Regional Improvement Group and the first meeting of the group took place in November 2018, following the finalisation of college data for 2017-18 and the completion of college evaluative reviews and enhancement plans. The group considered retention and attainment data and agreed to work with regional

curriculum hubs to identify the factors that impact on the student journey that affect retention and attainment in all groups.

7. Skills Alignment

- 7.1** 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.
- 7.2** To develop a consensus on skills alignment across the Glasgow Region, and to ensure we maximise the knowledge and expertise of college curriculum managers, GCRB arranged two meetings with college curriculum hub staff and sector skills managers from SDS.
- 7.3** These meetings focussed on assessing the provision of skills training for childcare, business, financial services and IT subjects and the current and future employment demand for related occupations. Having both college and SDS staff present allowed participants to consider the combined impact of both GCRB Credit funded activity and SDS funded apprenticeship delivery.
- 7.4** The discussions identified evidence of areas where skills supply is well aligned to employment needs, but also areas where there may be opportunities for potential Glasgow College Region curriculum development. Further skills alignment meetings for these subject areas will be held to progress these initial discussions and the outputs of this work will feed in to curriculum planning for 2019-20 and beyond.

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.