

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 17 June 2019
Paper Title	Regional Collaboration Update
Agenda Item	17
Paper Number	BM4-P
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

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 **note** this report on regional collaborative activity and the evidence it provides of progress towards the achievement of regional strategic goals;

3. Skills Recognition Pilot

- 3.1** The Glasgow College Region is supporting a pilot project to reduce Scotland's skills gap by formally recognising and accrediting the skills and qualifications of people from overseas. The initiative, which is being delivered by Glasgow Caledonian University, will support employers by helping migrants transfer training gained in other countries into UK-recognised qualifications across key sectors such as social care, construction, engineering, IT and hospitality.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced Government support for the initiative at the STUC's Annual Congress in Dundee and outlined the steps the Scottish Government is taking to support and protect migrant workers. Around 40 learners from across Glasgow's colleges are expected to take part in 2019/20 with the lessons learned from the project supporting potential roll out across Scotland. Partners in the project include the Bridges Programmes, which supports the social, educational and economic integration of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in Glasgow, Skills Development Scotland, SFCQ and SQA, alongside GCRB and the three Glasgow colleges.

4. Learner Journey

- 4.1** The Regional Leads for Student Experience and Student Data and the GCRB Executive Director are participating in meetings progressing implementation of the Scottish Government's Learner Journey review. The focus of the joint work is on improving access to

the full regional curriculum through the Skills Development Scotland My World of Work website, alongside improving data collection on student demand.

- 4.2** Following the publication of a Scottish Funding Council report on articulation, the regional Learning and Teaching Group received a presentation from Dr Scott Montgomery, Senior Policy/Analysis Officer at the Scottish Funding Council on the articulation portal which provides access to collated data. Going forwards, this information source will support curriculum planning and review activity at both regional and institutional levels.

5. Foundation Apprenticeship Delivery

- 5.1** Representatives from across the Glasgow College Region participated in a Foundation Apprenticeship review meeting held at the offices of Skills Development Scotland. The meeting provided an opportunity for college, local authority and SDS representatives to consider progress to date, and to discuss potential improvements and developments to the programme. The recent introduction of additional Foundation Apprenticeship providers was included in these discussions, and the meeting provided an opportunity to consider how future commissioning arrangements could ensure the continued coherence and accessibility of the regional Foundation Apprenticeship offer.

- 5.2** A Foundation Apprenticeship Celebration Event was held in Glasgow City Chambers on Tuesday, 4th June. Students, employers and staff from colleges, Skills Development Scotland, and local authorities participated in the event, which was addressed by Jamie Hepburn MSP and Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills. Pupils from schools across Glasgow City, East Dunbartonshire, and East Renfrewshire came together to celebrate the completion of their Foundation Apprenticeship, alongside special awards being presented for employer and Foundation Apprenticeship of the year.

- 5.3** Building on the success of the regional FA programme, GCRB and the colleges submitted a funding bid to Skills Development Scotland to support the development of the Foundation Apprenticeship programme to levels 4/5 in 2019-20. This would offer Senior Phase pupils a more modern and work relevant alternative to the Skills for Work qualifications in construction, automotive and hospitality. The new courses will constitute 4 units of study and focus on project-based activity delivered in partnership with an employer. It is hoped that SDS will provide funding for a project coordinator to support the identification and integration of partner employers for each course.

6. Skills Alignment

- 6.1** As part of ongoing activity to improve skills alignment, GCRB continues to engage with a newly formed Financial Services Employers Hub organised jointly by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). As reported previously, SDS 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. In response to regional discussions, City of Glasgow College has now developed a part-time, level 7/8 Financial Services course for college and university graduates. GCRB has allocated additional Credits to the College to fund a pilot of this course, which is being delivered over May and June 2019. The course includes significant employer input and successful completers will be offered an opportunity to be interviewed for positions within the Financial Services industry.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 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.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 No equalities implications are identified.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 No legal implications are identified.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 No significant resource needs are identified at present.

11. Strategic Implications

11.1 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.