

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 28 October 2019
Paper Title	College Evaluative Reports and Enhancement Plans 2019
Agenda Item	14
Paper Number	BM1-N
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Interim Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To consider feedback on the College Evaluative Reports and revised guidance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Board is recommended to **note** the summary of the 2018 Evaluative Reports and Enhancement Plans and the guidance for future plans.

3. Background

- 3.1. Members will recall that in 2017, the Scottish Funding Council and Education Scotland introduced revised arrangements for assuring, and improving, the quality of services in Scotland's Colleges.

- 3.2. The result was the publication of Evaluative Reports and Enhancement Plans in January 2019. The three colleges in Glasgow published their reports and these are available on the Education Scotland website:

City of Glasgow College - <https://education.gov.scot/other-sectors/further-education/688504>

Glasgow Clyde College - <https://education.gov.scot/other-sectors/further-education/811922>

Glasgow Kelvin College - <https://education.gov.scot/other-sectors/further-education/825806>

4. Report

- 4.1. In September 2019, Education Scotland published a report that collated the results from the publication of the College Evaluative Reports and Enhancement Plans. The report identifies the areas of strength and areas for improvement identified by the colleges within the published reports.
- 4.2. The report is provided for information at Annex A and is intended to inform discussion to support the college sector in building on strengths and addressing areas of weakness.

- 4.3. In September 2019, Education Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council published guidance on the future arrangements for assuring and improving the quality of services. In essence, these are the future arrangements for Evaluative Reports and Enhancement Plans. A copy of the guidance is provided at Annex B of this document.
- 4.4. A key point to note is that colleges will not be required to produce an Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan every year. Instead, colleges will be required to maintain their Enhancement Plan and report annually on Outcome Agreement Priorities. The precise reporting requirements are set out in SFC's outcome agreement guidance (<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/funding/outcome-agreements/outcome-agreements-guidance/outcome-agreements-guidance.aspx>)
- 4.5. Progress Visits will be conducted annually by Education Scotland to evaluate progress against the Enhancement Plan targets. Following each visit, Education Scotland will produce a written report, which will be shared with the college.
- 4.6. Colleges are expected to involve all stakeholders in the evaluation process, including learners, local employers and partners.
- 4.7. There is a need to further consider how the arrangements will be applied in multi-college regions. The guidance states that:

“In the three multi-college regions, evaluations of provision and services will continue, as before, to function at the level of the individual college. However, the Outcome Agreement and governance arrangements in each multi-college region differ, and therefore each of these regions will agree with their SFC Outcome Agreement Teams and Education Scotland College HMIs how best to align Outcome Agreement evaluation and reporting with individual institutional evaluations and reporting in their regional contexts.”
- 4.8. It is clear that colleges will need to produce an Outcome Agreement self-evaluation report on an annual basis. The guidance also advises that “Detailed guidance on reporting requirements in relation to the production of the EREP (Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan), or interim report, will be issued annually.”

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Consideration of this guidance mitigates the risk of ‘Fewer learners achieving positive outcomes’ (Risk 007) and a ‘Failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs’ (Risk 009).

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8. Resource Implications

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

9. Strategic Plan implications

- 9.1.** The implementation of effective quality assurance arrangements aims to improve performance outcomes and deliver the ambitions of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Glasgow college region.