

## Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 25 January 2021
Paper Title	Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-21 and 2021-22 Update
Agenda Item	16
Paper Number	BM4-0
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

### 1. Report Purpose

**1.1** This report provides an update on progress against the notional 2020-2021 Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA), and on interim work on the 2021-22 'emergency years' Outcome Agreement progress of Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

### 2. Recommendations

**2.1** Board is invited to **note** this interim progress report, and the current position of future developments.

### 3. Report

**3.1** The following update was provided to the Performance and Resources Committee on 16 December 2020.

### 4. Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-21 Progress Report

#### A) Credit Data Analysis

4.1 Attached as Annex A to this report is projected Credit data provided by the assigned colleges in November 2020. This is based on recruitment for the 2020-21 year and the data within the FES database.

4.2 The report provided in Annex A shows that the Glasgow college region is currently projecting to deliver almost 5,000 credits above the combined Core and ESF target. This information is based upon the current data within the college management information systems.

4.3 Credit projections for additional Childcare suggest that the region will exceed the targets by 2,100 credits (28% of target). The level of projected activity in 2020-21 is expected to be significantly higher than the previous year (and a reversal of the recent trend).

4.4 The volume of activity delivered to learners in the most deprived postcode areas was 29.1% in 2019-20. However, the ROA for 2020-21 identified that the volume of activity

would increase to 30.7%. Current predictions indicate that the forecast outturn is 28.8% which is below target and below the previous year.

- 4.5 The volume of credit activity related to learners from different protected groups, and care experienced learners, shows a mixed picture. For example, the volume of credits delivered to Black and Minority Ethnic students is predicted to be 3% below target. This contrasts sharply with the levels achieved in 2019-20 and represents a fall of 9.0% compared to the previous year.
- 4.6 Similarly, credit activity for students with a known disability is almost 9% below target. This also contrasts with the levels achieved in 2019-20 and represents a fall of 8.5% compared to the previous year.
- 4.7 It is important to consider if there is a correlation between the reduced levels of student participation identified in the previous paragraphs and Covid-19, and whether these groups have faced additional barriers in attending college this year.
- 4.8 The amount of activity delivered to students who have experienced care is predicted to be almost 45% above the target level. This increase is on top of substantial growth in previous years. The support for learners, for example additional bursary funding and higher levels of support, such as our project with Action for Children, continue to have a positive impact.
- 4.9 The volume of credit activity for senior phase pupils has fallen markedly as a result of the impact of Covid-19. Credit activity is expected to be just 20% of the target. 2018-19 saw growth in this particular area of activity but projected activity for 2019-20 returned to the levels observed in 2017-18.
- 4.10 Progress in respect of regional targets for economic sector activity show some relatively minor variations against planned levels. Growth can be seen in areas such as Creative and Cultural Industries, Food, Drink, Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure. Areas with lower levels of activity include Health, Care and Education and Administration, Financial and Business Services. This pattern is similar to previous years and indicates a shifting trend in curriculum delivery.
- 4.11 As we move towards a renewed regional curriculum plan, working in collaboration with the Glasgow colleges, SFC, SDS and other regional partners, it will be important to gauge economic sector activity in relation to current and emerging future needs, and work has commenced across the region which links SFC, SDS, Glasgow colleges, Glasgow City Council and wider partners such as colleges within the City Deal catchment to consider market intelligence data and progress towards a refreshed curriculum plan. It is worth noting, however, that colleges continue to operate to tailor their immediate offering to meet new and emerging demands while seeking to safeguard core offering.
- 4.12 The GCRB Executive Director, and the regional Learning and Teaching Group, will continue to monitor and support progress towards achievement of the Outcome Agreement targets.
- 4.13 It is noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has created significant crises across public health, the economy and society. As such, college activity was not immune from significant, fast-paced change from March 2020 onwards, meaning that the end of the 2019-20 academic year was characterised by significant upheaval and a necessary

change to remote delivery and working. This will have a continued impact on KPIs and the significant impact on learning and teaching in 2020-2021 cannot be understated or underestimated. Significant social restrictions remain in place, and these have a marked impact on the predominantly technical and vocational nature of college delivery, as well as emerging data indicating that they have an increased impact on learners and communities predominantly served by college provision. The current 'emergency years' provision under SFC terms is likely to expand beyond the current academic year in terms of impact. Engagement is on-going across SFC, Colleges Scotland and various other bodies to fully understand and respond to the significant impact of Covid-19 on college learning, and by association on the delivery of Outcome Agreement targets, and on the longer-term look and aim of the ROA process, and SFC continue to provide interim updates on future direction. The support and assistance of Glasgow's colleges in providing overview detail and narrative to the on-going review and oversight process is noted with appreciation.

**B) Regional Actions**

- 4.14 The following sections provide members with an update on regional collaborative work and developments relating to agreed regional outcomes.
- 4.15 The Programme for Action is making a contribution to some of the ambitions within the Regional Outcome Agreement. Progress is as follows:

Commitment	Regional output/outcome	Progress Update
Curriculum planning (£25,000)	The current regional curriculum plan effectively comes to an end in the current academic year, and a refreshed regional curriculum plan will be developed.	Initial planning has taken place between GCRB, Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland to consider ways in which initial pilot work can now be evolved to meet regional planning needs in the current, and eventual post-Covid-19 environment. Initial discussion with GCG Learning and Teaching Group is underway, and a regional curriculum planning strategy and action plan will be developed.

Bridge 2 Business (£201,425 via SFC strategic funds)	The Bridge 2 Business programme provides colleges students with opportunities to engage with entrepreneurial role models. It also provides a range of services to inspire and support college students into business.	The project has operated successfully for a number of years. The project has been awarded £201,425 by SFC <sup>1</sup> for 2020-21.
Empower our ESOL Partnership (£96,348)	Leadership of the city-wide ESOL network, management and continued development of the city-wide ESOL register, and delivery by community partners of access provision.	Glasgow Clyde College is delivering the regional ESOL project in 2020-21. This funding is supplemented by in-kind resources provided by local authority, and community, partners. The ESOL Register (which forms an important component of the ESOL project) has been the subject of a review which has recommended a number of improvements. The ESOL steering group is considering future actions and we will work closely with partners to support developments.
Child Poverty (£70,000)	Delivery of projects in communities facing the highest levels of deprivation. The projects will be delivered in conjunction with partners to address issues such as child development, health, parenting, pathways to education.	The original project bid was submitted to SFC in January 2020. The decision making process was delayed and revised bids were requested in August 2020. Indicative approval has been intimated but we are still waiting formal approval of the bid.  The regional funding is intended to supplement the SFC project funding of £116,710.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the total value of the project which is administered/hosted by GCRB. It is worth noting that the project is delivered throughout Scotland with around 33% delivered in the Glasgow college region.

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Regional output/outcome</b>	<b>Progress Update</b>
Sustainability (£100,000)	The project is intended to provide a collaborative approach to the Climate Change emergency declared by the Scottish Government. In doing so it will seek to support projects within individual colleges and throughout the Glasgow College Region.	GCRB has joined the EAUC – the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges. The post of Environmental Sustainability Manager was advertised on 27 November 2020 and interviews took place on 22 January 2021. Further updates on appointment and associated actions to follow.
Deliver a support service for care experienced young people (£60,000)	Regional care-experienced support service established across the three colleges, with Action for Children staff working alongside college student support staff to provide additional support both in college and off site, for care experienced learners.	The project commenced in August 2019 and is co-funded, and delivered by, Action for Children. The contract for services is in place and the regional costs are £60,000 (together with additional matched funding of a similar amount).
Mental health, welfare and wellbeing (£10,000) <sup>2</sup>	Following previous POA work, TogetherAll online support access was provided, training sessions delivered and a Code of Practice developed for sharing with the colleges as well as adoption by GCRB.	Given the continued, and indeed growing, importance of this area of activity, it is intended that GCRB continues to support on-going activity in this area, including support for continued CPD sessions across colleges delivered in partnership with Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, delivery of a self-diagnostic tool which colleges may wish to make use of in their own mental health activity. In addition, exploring options for challenge fund activity.

#### 4.16 Outcome Agreement 2021-2022

**4.17** Scottish Funding Council is intending to progress core funding information in line with standard timelines, but continue to consider options for revision of the Outcome Agreement process. At time of writing, there is no final decision on whether the Outcome Agreement 21-22 will take the form of an ‘emergency year’s interim agreement or if a new process will be provided. It is likely that in the meantime we will progress with an approach which assures stability and delivers short-term business-as-usual approach to outcome agreement and activity work.

<sup>2</sup> This is covered within the GCRB Running Costs 2020-21 Report PRC3-G

## **5 Risk Analysis**

**5.1** This paper addresses GCRB Risk 009: Failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs.

## **6 Legal Implications**

**6.1** There are no specific equalities implications associated with this paper. However, the targets set out within the Regional Outcome Agreement support the ambition to improve access to the region's colleges.

## **7 Resource Implications**

**7.1** The Regional Outcome Agreement, and associated outcomes, has material impact on the resources of the Glasgow region, and its ability to meet its aims and objectives.

## **8 Equalities Implications**

**8.1** Targets set within the Regional Outcome Agreement relate to specific equalities outcomes, and will require to be monitored through interim phases to identify emerging risks in this area.

## **9 Strategic Implications**

**9.1** This report provides evidence of actions taken to support achievement of targets as agreed within the 2019-20 Regional Outcome Agreement.