

Board of Management Learning & Teaching Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 27 September 2016
Paper No.	LTC1-E
Agenda Item	8
Subject of Paper	College Quality Arrangements from 2016 -2017
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Alex Craig (Depute Principal)
Date of production	09/09/2017
Action	For Discussion

Recommendations

The Committee are asked to discuss the attached report and the implications for the College.

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Board of Management Learning & Teaching Committee with the College Quality Arrangements from 2016 onwards.

2 Context

The new Quality Arrangements will build on an initial pilot phase and will aim to:

- Integrate performance monitoring of Regional Outcome Agreement with the Quality Framework for colleges to reduce duplication of effort.
- Establish evaluation and performance reporting which makes use of core national performance information and also reflects the regional context.
- Strengthen college ownership and responsibility for self-evaluation.
- Ensure that appropriate challenge is built into the self-evaluation process by embedding independent, external feedback into the evaluation process.
- Enable SFC and other stakeholders to have annual validated assurance that the college is performing well on all aspects of its work and that action is being taken on any areas for improvement.

3 Main elements of the new arrangements

The sectors vision for quality is unchanged – a leadership and quality culture, high quality learning and learner engagement.

A new SFC cycle, begins in 2016-17, and together with the new National Quality System Framework for colleges, will provide the core national reporting framework, which enables colleges to integrate reporting on Regional Outcome Agreements with reporting on the quality of learning and teaching and all aspects impacting on the learner experience.

Each college will produce an annual self-evaluation of its Regional Outcome Agreement and its achievements against the quality framework. This self-evaluation will be agreed with appropriate external stakeholders of the college and must be externally validated and endorsed by Education Scotland and SFC

Colleges will set their own improvement priorities with an 'enhancement plan' and agreed methods by which they will achieve improvement. Education Scotland and the SFC Outcome Agreement managers will support the college in developing plans and assessing progress.

There will be no four yearly cycle of external reviews. Instead, there will be an annual cycle of 'continuous engagement' with colleges by Education Scotland and SFC OA Managers

4 Introducing the new arrangements

SFC have established a short life working group to oversee the next phase of development and implementation of the new arrangements , with four representatives from the Principals group, plus NUS, Scottish Government, CDN and Education Scotland.

One of the proposed improvements, agreed by the steering group and under discussion with the Principals group, is the re-introduction of grading. The intention is to align the college arrangements with current practices across all other education sectors, as well as other post 16 programmes including Modern Apprenticeships and Career Information Advice and Guidance. An example of this is the system used in schools 'How Good is My School'.

Systems such as 'How Good is My School' operate a six point grading scale. This being:

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Weak
- Unsatisfactory

The aim is to provide a similar common framework for colleges to evaluate and benchmark their own performance, and would also contribute to the national context.

The change in approach is substantial, and in recognition of this, 2016-17 will be a transitional year during which all colleges will plan for and adjust to the new arrangements in conjunction with Education Scotland and SFC.

SFC and Education Scotland will provide an outline of the new reporting framework and quality arrangements in the autumn, followed by detailed guidance by December 2016. Education Scotland HMIs will work closely with their colleges to ensure that there is clarity on the expectations of the new arrangements, as well as ways of working. SFC Outcome Agreement Managers will also provide guidance and support during this time.

5 Reporting

In 2016-17 colleges will report under existing quality/ OA arrangements on their performance in 2015-16. Colleges will submit reports by 31st October. SFC and Education Scotland will evaluate these reports under the existing arrangements.

During 16 -17 colleges will develop their self-evaluation and enhancement action plan as well as developing a revised Outcome Agreement. A baseline report and enhancement plan will be produced for October 2017.

From 2017 – 18 the arrangements will operate fully.

6 Implications

A model that considers multi college regions has still to be formulated, and the SLWG will consider any variation that may be necessary to that of single college regions.

Integration with regional strategy, planning and funding will be critical, and understanding how the new arrangements will operate at both local and regional levels will be important.

College planning, performance review processes and fora such as CADMs will have to be reconsidered and if necessary re-engineered around the new arrangements through 2016-17, to reflect the new quality indicators.

The Colleges dashboard and reporting mechanisms will have to be developed to reflect new quality indicators.

Staff development and training will be necessary in order to cascade the new arrangements in the lead up to full implementation in 2017-18.

A plan for implementation of the new model will be drawn up by our Performance colleagues.

New College Quality Arrangements

Timescale and meeting milestones to December 2016

Date	Actions	Progress schedule
26 August	New College Quality Arrangements agreed by SFC Council	SFC Board approved the new approach by which it will discharge its statutory responsibilities for quality assurance in the college sector and amended college quality reporting arrangements for AY 2016-17
30 August	ES & CDN personnel discussing collaborative approaches and training requirements of the new model	completed
5 September to 23 September	Principals' forum feedback on the proposed arrangements to their representatives on the College Quality Arrangements Steering Group	
23 September	ES & QAA meet to discuss new arrangements	
27 September	SFC & ES meeting to confirm progress and dissemination of review arrangements and to plan training for ES and SFC staff	
27 September	ES meeting sparqs to update on the new arrangements	
30 September	ES HMIs and SFC OAMs share intelligence and plan engagement with individual colleges	
30 September	College Quality Arrangements Steering Group, chaired by SFC meets with ES, sector representatives and SG personnel and approves further detail relating to the new arrangements	

4 October	Training and update conference for AAs at Stirling Court Hotel (formerly Stirling Management Centre)	
October	Joint training for HMIs and OAMs	
October	Nominee training for college representatives on the new model	
October	Tripartite initial scoping meeting involving individual colleges, HMIs and OAMs	
October/ November	On-going engagement between ES, OAM and college staff	
October/ November	Production of annual enhancement and scrutiny action plan identifying visit schedule, topic discussion and AA contribution	
December 2016	Publication of Education Scotland Quality Arrangements Guidance	