

Board of Management

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Agenda Item	13
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FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	P Clark, College Secretary
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Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

To note the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board update for Board members.

Glasgow Region Update for Board Members

Introduction from the Interim GCRB Chair

I am pleased to be able to circulate our first Glasgow Region Update for Board members and summarise the content of our GCRB Board Meeting on 30th October 2017.

It was a meeting that highlighted our collective success in building Glasgow's college system. The Board reviewed a report evidencing how we have delivered commitments made within our 2016-17 ROA and, as the government intensifies the imperatives of Outcome Agreements, we will continue to strengthen our use of targets, planning, engagement and evaluation.

Collaboration is key to our success. Our ROA evaluation report to the SFC was positive because the colleges are building such a strong and coherent college system for Glasgow. The Regional Leads are already making terrific progress with the collaborative management structure. Vitally, our Regional Strategic Plan for College Education is built on the potential of combined strength and ambition.

The Board met immediately after the launch of that Strategic Plan. A group of Regional Foundation Apprentices welcomed guests from the worlds of politics, industry and education to Kelvin College's East End Campus.

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, who spoke at the launch said, *"Improving education and life chances is the defining mission of this Government and Glasgow's regional approach will help build careers and contribute to Scotland's modern, successful, dynamic economy."*

The apprentices, and their fellow students who supported the launch, were an inspiration to all attendees. Our learners deserve our collaboration, they are more than equal to our ambitions and, with the benefit of an excellent college education, they are more than equal to the task of building Glasgow's economic future.



Grahame Smith

Interim Chair of Glasgow Colleges Regional Board

GCRB Board Meeting of 30 October 2017

Reporting positive progress on our Regional Outcome Agreement

Evaluation of our progress made in delivering the 2016-17 Regional Outcome Agreement shows that, together, we are making significant regional headway. All three Glasgow colleges have delivered their core and additional European Social Fund provision and the evaluation report provided strong evidence that as a region, we deliver a coherent curriculum and are widening access to college education. Our leavers' destinations are positive, and we are also expanding our delivery of school/college partnership courses as part of our regional Developing the Young Workforce plan.

We will, through the 2017-18 college enhancement plans, address reduced rates of attainment in full-time courses and low levels of learners' progression within the region. [Read the report on Evaluation of the Delivery of the 2016-17 Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement](#)

Regional Leads define their Year 1 ambitions

A part of the Region's collaborative approach, our Regional Leads have set out their first year's priorities. These will promote further collaboration; support flexible, informed and participative decision-making and; help realise Glasgow's ambitions for college education. The Leads have focussed on building relationships, sharing perspectives, and identifying and discussing proposals for progress. [Read the report on Regional Lead Year 1 Ambitions.](#)

Working with Regional Improvement Collaboratives

Last month, the Deputy First Minister described the new Regional Improvement Collaboratives as part of his update on school governance reform. In the Glasgow College Region, our Collaborative will mirror the Glasgow City Deal area and respond to economic needs and opportunities. This aligns perfectly with the colleges' developing a truly responsive curriculum.

At the GCRB Board meeting, Maureen McKenna provided an overview of the development of a Regional Improvement Collaborative across the Glasgow City Region area. [Read the report on the functions, priorities and leadership approach that will form the basis of the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative.](#)

Childcare provision to meet regional needs

GCRB, the three colleges, and local authorities have developed a cohesive regional growth strategy for childcare training. This is designed to support Glasgow's workforce capacity and the planned increase in state-funded childcare. The SFC offering approximately 500 additional Credits for training at SCQF level 7 for 2017-18 (in addition to an earlier allocation of 970 Credits). It was agreed at the Board that City of Glasgow College deliver this additional activity in 2017-18. [Read the report on additional childcare training.](#)

Meeting Government's expectations and ambitions

Also last month, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education and Science, provided the Scottish Funding Council with a letter of guidance setting out expectations and ambitions for the 2018-19 outcome agreements for colleges and universities. This followed the DFM's August letter of guidance for 2017-18 and beyond, to Skills Development Scotland. Both letters have implications for college education in the Glasgow Region.

An intensification of Outcome Agreements includes more ambitious targets for key priorities, greater support and commitment to OAs, robust performance reporting, and more external engagement. GCRB and the colleges will continue to work closely with the SFC's ROA managers to ensure that our targets, planning and delivery are ambitious, responsive and robust.

We will also plan our regional curriculum to meet the Government's commitment to significantly increasing the number of apprenticeships. [Read the report on the letters of guidance](#)