

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 5 June 2019
Paper No.	BoM6-I
Agenda Item	17
Subject of Paper	Glasgow College's Regional Board – Regional Briefing
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	P Clark, College Secretary
Date of production	May 2019
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

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

Regional Update for College Board Members

Board Meeting of 25 March 2019

I am pleased to share this summary of our Board Meeting, which was held on 25 March.

Our discussions at this Board meeting highlighted the positive steps we continue to take in our journey towards Scotland's most inclusive, responsive and effective regional college system.

We were pleased to welcome colleagues from Colleges Scotland, Chief Executive Shona Struthers and Head of Communications and Public Affairs, Will McLeish. They presented the Statement of Ambition for the college sector and outlined the key themes of the document, which was insightful.

The Regional Collaborative Update highlighted the positive work that has taken place. These are included in this report to highlight the excellent collaborative work that is being carried out.

I also introduced our new GCRB staff member Breea Keenan, who will be leading on our Marketing and Communications. Breea will be working closely with the Board to communicate our achievements around our regional ambitions and successes, of which there is plenty.

I want to thank you all for your continued, valued contribution to our Board meetings. We look forward to seeing you at the next Board meeting on 17 June.

Janie McCusker

Chair, Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board

College Scotland – Statement of Ambition

The Chief Executive and Head of Communications and Public Affairs for Colleges Scotland provided a presentation to the Board on the work of Colleges Scotland and the recently launched (insert link to Statement of Ambition) Statement of Ambition for the college sector.

They outlined the process by which the Statement of Ambition was developed and explored the key themes of the document with the Board. They also highlighted 'Inspirational Student' Ilisa Stack's successful learner journey from studying an HND in Photography at City of Glasgow College to award-winning photographer.

The Board considered the Colleges Scotland Statement of Ambition and agreed to support implementation of the plan.

Regional Collaborative Update

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper outlining progress on collaborative activity undertaken through the region.

This included:

- STEM Development: further meeting of regional STEM Hub held in January 2019
- Developing the Young Workforce – GCRB and the Glasgow colleges are working with SDS on two areas of opportunities for pilot activity to extend the opportunity of Foundation Apprenticeship type learning to Senior Phase pupils.
- Widening Access – The successful delivery of a regional articulation pathway project with the University of Glasgow has led to a similar partnership with Strathclyde University for 2019-20.
- The Regional Leads for Student Experience and Student Data held a meeting in February with GCRB and college colleagues to progress the establishment of guaranteed articulation pathways allowing seamless transitions across the Glasgow College Region.
- Quality enhancement – the newly formed Regional Improvement Group met and agreed to focus on a single curriculum area as a basis for joint analysis, sharing of practice and development and testing of improvement actions.
- The Regional Lead for Developing the Young Workforce provided a report to a range of internal and external groups reviewing regional performance data for school/college activity in 2017-18, highlighting the overall increases in attainment levels and identifying areas for further improvement.
- Skills alignment - GCRB is engaging with a newly formed Financial Services Employers Group organised jointly by Skills Development Scotland, who have engaged with a range of employers to develop a skills training demand statement.

The Board considered the report on regional collaborative activity and endorsed the evidence it provides of progress towards the achievement of regional strategic goals.

Regional Conversation Event

Moira Connolly presented the item on the Regional Conversation on Mental Health, noting the positive and well attended event held on 25 February 2019. She outlined main themes from the event, including:

- The college region should take a proactive approach which focuses on prevention and building resilience, developing the skills of staff and learners to effectively tackle mental health issues.
- We need a mapping exercise of mental health and well-being services for both students and staff. This will give a greater understanding of current services available and to support more coherent and collaborative future delivery/development.
- Counselling alone is not the answer and we need to develop services and approaches that are multi-dimensional. We need a whole systems approach, not just across the colleges, but with partners such as the NHS to deliver a coherent, joined up and efficient service.
- Lack of resources is an issue and this often leads to insufficient time for college staff to support students. There are also concerns regarding expectations on the role and expertise of college staff in this area, and how to improve the link with health professionals.
- There can be cultural challenges for young males, BME groups or specific religions about accessing counselling so we need to work with external organisations to better understand these areas.

GCRB committed to developing professionally-qualified Mental Health Services leadership capacity across the region, which is expected to be complemented by additional Scottish Funding Council funding for counsellors.

The Board noted the Regional Conversation on Mental Health and Wellbeing event held by GCRB and requested an update on the further development of the strategic approach to mental health at a future GCRB Board Meeting.

Regional Outcome Agreement and Funding 2019-20

The Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee presented the paper on the Regional Outcome Agreement for 2019-20, noting that indicative credit targets remain unchanging from those considered at the previous Board meeting and therefore the Committee are proposing no changes to related performance targets.

A simplified approach for allocating the core revenue funding of £89.884m to the three colleges was recommended for 2019-20, including the cost of national bargaining harmonisation (£2.259m) which has been allocated to the colleges in accordance with the analysis of costs produced by Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council.

The Board discussion recognised the increasing financial pressures related to the indicative financial pressures related to the indicative budget and considered the implications for the region in the longer-term.

The Board also discussed the resourcing of collaborative activities within the Programme for Action and continuing to ensure value for money action regional expenditure.

Good Governance Outcomes

The Board Secretary provided an overview of the report detailing the outcomes of the Scottish Government Consultation on Good Governance.

She noted that there are different timelines for implementation of the outcomes and the Good Governance Steering Group is working to discuss implications and the process for changes to be realised. The Board discussed and noted the report and implications for GCRB.

Board Self Evaluation

The Board's Annual Self Evaluation was approved, noting that results will inform the draft Development Plan 2019-20. The Board's evaluation of the Chair's role was also discussed and agreed to be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of their formal appraisal process.