

**Lanarkshire Regional Outcome Agreement**  
**New College Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire College**  
**Self-evaluation report**  
**Progress and outcomes for academic year 2015-16**  
**Summary for The Lanarkshire Board**

## **A. Introduction**

The Colleges have made good progress in the overall delivery of a range of outcomes identified in the current three-year Regional Outcome Agreement and are working together towards longer term outcomes as indicated in the ROA.

## **B. Overall reflection on available audited statistical data and progress in the preceding year with reference to specific milestones.**

The Colleges have delivered the total core and ESF credit target as planned. 186,185 SFC Funding Credits delivered against a target of 185,733.

The Colleges' target for engagement with *16-19 year-old learners* was 46%. This target was exceeded by 1 percentage point, with New College Lanarkshire having a higher proportion of learners in this age group at 47.1%.

The Colleges also set a target for engagement with *over-25-year-old-learners*. This target of 27.0% was exceeded by 0.5 percentage points, with South Lanarkshire College having a higher proportion of learners in this age group at 32.4%.

The proportion of non-white-Scottish learners is 2.3 percentage points above expected and similarly the number of learners reporting a disability at 16.7% is also 2.3 percentage points above that expected.

The split of male and female learners at 44.8% and 55.2% respectively reflects a slightly higher proportion of female learners enrolling in 2015-16 than expected.

Overall attainment rates in the region have not met targets for either FE or HE attainment. This will be a focus for improvement during the current 3-year cycle of the ROA.

The engagement with learners from the 10% most deprived areas of North and South Lanarkshire is well above regional and national targets and national Scottish Government aspirations. In both Colleges the attainment rates for learners from these areas was higher in 2015-16 than it was in 2014-15.

The figures for apprenticeship numbers, which are well above target, demonstrate the significant employer engagement undertaken by the Colleges and this links well with national Scottish Government policy.

The detailed data sets from both colleges are contained in Appendix 2 to this document.

## **C. Progress in the current year (recruitment, retention)**

Both colleges are well through the August recruitment process and have already recruited to a level above their core credit target.

## **D. New Quality Arrangements**

Both colleges are reviewing their quality systems in line with SFC guidance and the expected changes from October 2017 onwards. Both colleges are treating the current year as a transition year for quality arrangements and are in the process of shaping up new quality arrangements. Both colleges have representation on the SFC Quality Steering Group and the persons responsible for Quality Arrangements in each College are sharing good practice as they develop the new arrangements.

By signing the pledge in Appendix 1, both colleges commit to engaging fully in the new SFC external quality arrangements.

## **D. Changes to targets**

The colleges have not changed any of the targets for the current year

## **E. The delivery of commitment to DYW including growth in Senior Phase pathways and Widening access and progression targets**

Both colleges have reported to SFC the progress in delivery of DYW programmes. Both colleges have engaged with a range of local authorities in respect of delivering programmes to Senior Phase pupils. Overall the engagement with Senior Phase pupils has risen with new curriculum areas being developed and delivered in each college to meet emerging needs. New College Lanarkshire explored the delivery of Foundation Apprenticeships in 2014-15 and concluded that the low level of demand was such that the College didn't offer any new intakes of Foundation Apprenticeships in 2016-17. South Lanarkshire College explored the delivery of Foundation apprenticeships for 2016-17, but again concluded that low level of demand for these awards did not merit delivery in 2016-17. With increasing awareness amongst pupils and parents regarding what a Foundation Apprenticeship Award constitutes, both colleges will monitor whether or not demand becomes sufficient to merit running these programmes in 2017-18. Overall, the number of credits delivered to senior-phase pupils has risen to 11,715 credits which is above the regional target of 11,144. The Regional DYW Action Plan can be seen in Appendix 1.

## **F. Learners from the most deprived 10% postcode areas (SIMD 10).**

Figures based on National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2013 mid-year estimates show the proportion of population from the 10% most deprived postcode areas (SIMD 10) in Lanarkshire is 11.6%.

The Lanarkshire Colleges have delivered a steadily increasing proportion of their SFC-funded curriculum to learners from these postcodes as follows.

- 17.6% in AY 2012/13;
- 18.4% in AY 2013/14;

- 18.6% in AY 2014/15 and
- 18.9% in AY 2015-16.

In this respect the Colleges are already delivering the Scottish Government and SFC future target in relation to engaging with the potentially most disadvantaged learners in the population. In addition to this increase in enrolments, the most recent published SFC statistics (2014-15) demonstrate that both colleges have also improved the attainment outcomes for learners from the 10% most deprived postcode areas. At New College Lanarkshire the attainment rate for SIMD10 learners increased from 61.5% in 2013-14 to 63.2% in 2014-15. At South Lanarkshire College the attainment rate for SIMD10 learners increased from 71% in 2013-14 to 73% in 2014-15. This compared to a Scotland-wide decline in the attainment rate for SIMD10 learners from 66% in 2013-14 to 65% in 2014-15. The improving outcomes for these learners in Lanarkshire supports students from the most disadvantaged areas to get a job, become economically active and have a better chance of sustainable and rewarding employment. *(Source: SFC's Further Education Statistics (FES) & National Records of Scotland (NRS))*

### **G. Outcomes for students into employment**

The recent SFC College Leaver Destination survey reported that in Lanarkshire 86.3% of learners progress to a positive destination at the end of their course which is above the Scottish average of 82.6%.

Of those learners who progress to a positive destination at the end of their course 79% progress to further study (compared to a Scottish average of 79.4%) and 16.9% go directly into a job (compared to a Scottish average of 16.2%).

### **H. Improved support to increase completion of courses and progression to university and progress with curriculum development to align with regional economic need.**

In Lanarkshire, the number and proportion of successful learners who have achieved HNC or HND qualifications articulating to degree level courses with advanced standing in AY 14/15) is at a record high and well above the aspirations in the Colleges' regional targets.

This steadily increasing number of learners is an upward trend from 237 learners in AY 2011/12 to 337 learners in AY 2014/15. This is a 42.2% increase and has contributed to the overall national increase of 29.0% over the same period. This is a positive outcome from the Colleges' investment in partnership work with Universities, a reflection of the success of the SFC Assisted places scheme for College students (NB funding for this is to be phased out starting next year) and the commitment from the colleges to provide suitable options for successful students at the end of their programme.

*Source: SFC's National Articulation Database; SFC College*

## Appendix 1: Developing new appropriate quality arrangements for October 2017 and beyond

South Lanarkshire College was one of three SFC Colleges that engaged in the SFC learning process entitled the *SFC Action Learning Pilot*.

Through this initiative the College developed an alternative methodology for engaging effectively with Education Scotland (ES) and SFC. The objectives of the South Lanarkshire College pilot were to *enhance student attainment and outcomes, integrate approaches to quality reporting, publish a report exemplar, publish a report on the learning that had taken place and develop an appropriate quality enhancement plan*. This Enhancement Plan was to address matters identified as areas for development and build on the existing strengths in other areas.

During 2016-17, SFC and ES are developing a new Scotland-wide Quality Framework and Methodology for the external review of Quality in all Scottish colleges. This development is informed partly by the learning outcomes from all three Action Learning Pilot Colleges.

In the ROA guidance of October 2016, each College Board is required to:

*“formally pledge/commit to engage with ES and SFC in the year of development and to create new arrangements for their college, and commit to producing an evaluation report and an enhancement plan for Oct 2017.”*

By formally signing this document, both College Boards pledge/commit to engage with Education Scotland and SFC in this year of development of new arrangements for the external review of quality.

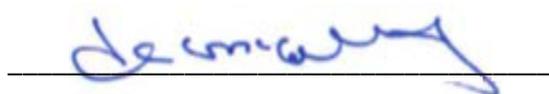
Both Boards also commit to develop new appropriate quality arrangements and to each college producing the required evaluation report and associated Enhancement Plan for Oct 2017.

Signed:



Linda McTavish

The Lanarkshire Board



Jane McCartney

South Lanarkshire College Board of Management