



## **Report on the SLC Students' Association**

**May 2017**

*“We aim to represent all students in an equal, fair and welcoming environment where creativity is praised and everyone has a voice to be heard”*

## **SLC Students' Association 3-year Strategy Report**

We are continuing the process of developing a 3-year Strategy Report. We want to ensure we have a clear vision of where we see the SA in the future and to set key objectives to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the SA. We hope to have this available for the start of the academic session 2017/18.

### **LGBT events and activities – Feeling the 'Pride' at SLC**

The SA have continued to focus on promoting and supporting the LGBT community. We have submitted our portfolio to be assessed for the LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Mark and hope to receive positive feedback in the coming months.

Once again college staff and students will be taking part in the Glasgow Pride 2017 event. This is an excellent opportunity to show how inclusive we are as a College and demonstrates the importance we place on standing up for LGBT equality.

We have organised a student-led monthly drop-in LGBT support group. We hope this will continue to grow and be a key support function for those who may need additional help or support to settle into college life.

We're delighted to show off our new LGBT flag which is situated above the Advice Centre and our LGBT banner which is displayed at the entrance to the College. In addition to this, we were lucky to secure additional LGBT resources through the NHS, this resource has been placed at the main reception for all students, staff and visitors to view.

These activities are generating a lot of positive comments and discussion throughout the College which is helping to facilitate an inclusive, supporting and nurturing environment for all students and staff to learn and work.

### **Care Experienced Students and the Who Cares? Scotland organisation**

We are really keen to help students who are looked after or care experienced and help them enjoy college life. Our priority is to ensure all students feel safe and valued regardless of their background. To this end we are delighted to be working closely with the Who Cares? Scotland organisation.

In partnership with staff and the Who Cares? Scotland organisation we have been hosting student-led care experienced focus groups. We want to find out about their lived experiences of accessing education, what the barriers have been and what we can do to support them more effectively.

### **No Period Poverty at SLC**

As part of our health and wellbeing focus for students and staff; we're delighted the College is providing free sanitary products to all woman and girls. Sanitary products

are available from SA office, Student Services, Hairdressing and Beauty reception and the Annex building reception. Free dispensary vending machines are now available in toilets across campus.

Student feedback has been exceptionally positive, with many students acknowledging that having access to these essential sanitary products make a real difference to the many students who struggle financially.

With one student saying “it’s been amazing getting access to free sanitary products without having to lose my dignity in the process”.

### **SLC Students’ Association Newsletter**

We continue to aim to produce quarterly high-quality newsletters to help keep our students informed about any initiatives, activities and forthcoming events. We’re currently working on the May addition. This has been crucial in getting the student voice heard across the college campus.

### **SA Final Executive Meeting and AGM**

We will be having our final Executive Meeting and AGM on the 1 June 2017. We want to ensure that the SA show strong leadership and that all students have the opportunity to raise issues or voice opinions.

### **Scottish Parliament Visit**

The SA represented the views of young people at the Scottish Parliament on Friday, 24 March 2017. It was a really interesting, engaging and valuable experience. It provided a real opportunity to have an insight into how the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government operates and gave us a voice to discuss and debate issues and concerns that impact young people all over Scotland. It also provided a good opportunity to network and discuss sector issues with fellow students and stakeholders.

### **NUS Scotland Conference – Dundee 24-25 March 2017**

We attended the NUS Scotland Conference on the 24 and 25 March 2017. This Conference brings together delegates from students’ associations in Scotland affiliated to the NUS UK to discuss, debate and vote on motions and elect the political leadership for the year ahead. The successful candidate for President was – Luke Humberstone and we look forward to working with him in the future.

### **NUS National Conference – Brighton 25-27 April 2017**

We were delighted to attend the NUS National Conference in Brighton on the 25 – 27 April 2017. This was an excellent opportunity to engage and network with our fellow

officers from all over the country. The National Conference is the sovereign policy-making body of the NUS and brings together nearly a thousand delegates from students' unions across the country to discuss, debate and vote on motions and elect the political leadership of the organisation for the year ahead. The new National President is Shakira Martin. Shakira is a previous FE student from Lewisham and Southwark College.

### **Mental Health Awareness Week 8-14 May 2017 - Surviving or Thriving?**

It was Mental Health Awareness Week 8-14 May and the focus this year is on surviving or thriving. There were a range of promotions taking place throughout the College to encourage all of us to set some time aside on activities that have a positive impact on our overall mood as well as help boost resilience.

We helped host a Positivi-Tea event on Wednesday 10 May in partnership with staff and Breathing Space. Students and staff were invited to the Bistro for complimentary Tea, Coffee and Cakes which was delivered by our fabulous Hospitality students. This was a great opportunity for staff and students to chat about mental health awareness and to encourage all of us to make small changes that can make a positive difference to our mental health.