

Board self-evaluation update: December 2018

1. Board self-evaluation

The Board self-evaluation for 2017 and Board Development Plan 2018-19 was submitted to SFC at the end of July 2018.

In accordance with the Good Governance Guide for Scotland's Colleges we are required to carry out the Board self-evaluation on an annual basis and the procedures for the evaluation for 2018 are currently under discussion. In the evaluation for 2017 we suggested that for 2018 we would undertake a themed approach rather than the broadbrush method previously adopted so that we could focus on areas of particular value and relevance to Lanarkshire. Informal feedback from SFC has indicated that they are content with this proposal.

At the Board strategy event in March 2018 the findings of the Board operational effectiveness survey, part of the Board evaluation for 2017, were analysed and presented by Professor Robert Pyper (Board member).

Emerging themes from that discussion were:

- Opportunities for enhanced partnership and alignment across the colleges;
- Future Board recruitment and support for diversity;
- Supporting the Board – an enhanced secretariat?
- Enhancing the Board as both a strategic driver and an agent of scrutiny and accountability.

Over the months since the Board strategy event it has become evident that a major strategic theme is enhancing partnership working, both internally and externally across the region in addition to achieving closer collaboration between the colleges. Closer working not only has the potential to strengthen the operation of both colleges as regards the student experience but also to enhance the expertise both colleges can offer to their stakeholders, local and national, and to their respective wider communities across Lanarkshire.

We propose that this should be a major thread in the Board evaluations for 2018 and 2019.

Further information on the evaluation of the Board for 2018 will be advised to Board members in due course.

2. Board Development Plan 2018-19

The Development Plan continues to underpin and guide the activities which support the development of both the Board and individual Board members and also to ensure that Governance requirements met and are up to date.

Following the Board strategy day in March 2018 a review of the resources available to the Board Secretary. was undertaken by Keith Fulton, Senior Independent Board member. This has now been completed. A copy will be made available to all Board members.

An updated version of the Board Development Plan 2018-19 will be circulated to members with the additional information on the Board evaluation 2018 (see above).

3. Action

Board members are asked for their views on the above proposal on themes for the next Board evaluation exercise.

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