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| **FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**  |
| Meeting:  **Curriculum, Student Affairs and Outcome Committee** |
| Presented by | **Jennifer Lowe** |
| Author/Contact | **Jennifer Lowe**  | Department / Unit | **Executive** |
| Date Created | **7 February 2025** | Telephone | **Ext 7265** |
| Appendices Attached |  |
| Disclosable under FOISA | **Yes** |

1. **PURPOSE**

To provide an update on quality assurance/enhancement and learning and teaching activity within the College.

1. **BACKGROUND**

Report provided to CSAO updates on the main activities.

1. **DETAIL**

The report includes updates on:

Students, Education, Learning and Teaching Committee Actions;

Academic Standards, Planning and Monitoring Committee;

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education;

Learning Well;

Student Engagement;

Awards.

1. **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

The Board retains an overview of NCL activity.

1. **RISK**

N/A.

1. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Inability to achieve targets could result in loss of income to New College Lanarkshire.

1. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications.

1. **WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no workforce implications.

1. **REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no reputational implications.

1. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equalities implications.

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| **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**CSAO is asked to note the information contained in this report and raise or discuss any issues. |

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

* 1. This paper seeks to provide an update on the NCL Committee, Quality and Self-Evaluation Update for academic year 2024 – 2025.

### **2. COLLEGE CAMPAIGNS/AGREEMENTS**

2.1 **Students, Education, Learning and Teaching Committee (SELT) Actions**

October 2024 – NCL formally launched of the Wellbeing Academies at the Motherwell, Coatbridge and Cumbernauld campuses. This investment demonstrates NCL commitment to improving the health and wellbeing for students and staff. Supporting this is NCL’s Wellbeing Committee.

October 2024 – Launch of the Student Mental Health Agreement demonstrating NCL’s commitment to the thriving Learners Report. The Agreement focuses on raising awareness of mental health, identifying factors and triggers that impact on mental health and mental health coping strategies.

October 2024 – Launch of the Student Partnership Agreement. A shared vision designed to enhance the student experience and where students are equal partners in decision-making.

January 2025 – Formal launch of the Be Financially Fit Campaign. Staff and students benefitted from expert advice, interactive workshops, and valuable resources. NCL thank Board Member Catherine Pollock for her guidance and support to develop the campaign.

The SELT group are developing a Brain Health campaign focusing on the research carried out be Brain Health Scotland. NCLs mission is to inspire the college community to be empowered to protect brain health and reduce the risk of diseases that lead to dementia.

In partnership with the Student Engagement team, the SELT group are supporting the NCL’s Wellbeing Committee. Through partnership working with the NHS and linking into NCLs Wellbeing calendar. The focus will be on public health and health promotion initiatives.

2.2 **Academic Standards, Planning and Monitoring Committee (ASPMC)**

The ASPMC have approved NCL’s Credit Rating Procedure and NCL’s Setting You Up for Success and Social Enterprise units.

### **3. QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY (QAA) FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

3.1 NCL has been advised by QAA that our Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review will take place in academic year 2027/2028.

NCL submitted its Self-Evaluation and Action Plan (SEAP) to the Scottish Funding Council in December 2024. Alastair Duthie will be our QAA Scotland Liaison contact.

The table below includes some key upcoming dates. Following the submission of Self-Evaluation and Action Plans (SEAPs), the indicative timeline will be as follows:

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| **Activity** | **Date** |
| SEAP submission deadline to SFC | 2 December 2024 |
| Analysis of institutional SEAPs | December 2024 to February 2025 |
| Annual Quality Engagements with SFC | January to February 2025 |
| Institutional Liaison Meetings with QAA (in person visit) | Late February to March 2025 |

The following staff have been appointed by QAA as Tertiary Quality Enhancement Reviewers:

* Robert Allan, Dean for Innovation and Academic Planning;
* Jennifer Lowe, Assistant Principal for Education and Student Success;
* Nicola Mulholland, Dean for the Undergraduate School and Partnerships;
* Barry Skea, Dean for Learning and Teaching.

NCL are engaging in two QAA quality enhancement projects:

**Pedagogy for Transitions**

A project in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College, Abertay University and the University of the West of Scotland. The project aims to improve student transitions from Further Education (FE) to Higher Education (HE) by aligning pedagogical approaches across institutions. The project aims to explore sharing of core methods and approaches which foster student-led learning through curiosity and exploration.

**Transition Learning**

A project in partnership with SCQF, Fife College and SWAP. The aim of this project is to review the localised learning and guidance programmes that have been developed in colleges and universities to support student transitions to higher education. It also aims to build awareness of how programmes can achieve SCQF credit-rating and how this can support entry to higher education.

**Student President Chloe Sandilands** has been appointed as the QAA student representative supporting the Student Transition and Enhancement Partnership (STEP) Group. Her role will help shape students transitions from FE to HE and enhance the student experience.

### **4. LEARNING WELL**

4.1 NCL will launch the first fully online degree in Business and Leadership through the Learning Well. NCL received 323 notes of interest, 165 applications and anticipate a cohort of 90 students starting the degree on the 24th February 2025. This will also be supported by a workshop conference on the 1st March 2025 at UWS Hamilton campus.

### **5. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (SE)**

5.1 SE team are finalising their Wellbeing Calendar for Semester 2. There are planned themed events around tackling poverty, mental health, addiction etc.

SE have engaged in roadshows to promote the three campaigns: Be Well to Do Well, Be Financially Fit and Getting to Know You.

### **6. AWARDS**

6.1 NCL Dental team were winners of the Research Project of the Year award sponsored by the Scottish Funding Council. The team led the development of National Occupational Standards and curriculum design for China, Mongolia and the Philippines.