2013-14 college outcome agreements

Foreword

As part of the reform of post-16 education in Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) radically changed its relationship with colleges by introducing an outcomes-based approach. This means we now negotiate the outcomes that we expect colleges to deliver in return for the significant investment by the Scottish Government. Importantly, this approach allows colleges to make clear their contribution to the priorities of the Council and Scottish Government.

Working through the new regional college structures, in 2013-14, in return for its funding, the SFC has negotiated commitments from colleges to:

- Increase provision by 4% over the planned target for 2012-13
- Deliver their part in Opportunities for All, the Scottish Government’s guarantee for young people, with 70% of provision targetted on 16-24 year olds
- Provide extra full and part-time provision to meet the needs of women and older learners.
- Improve the quality of provision so 1,000 more full time students will successfully complete their courses
- Create more efficient regional structures across Scotland with 8 mergers planned by November 2013.

Individual outcome agreements can be accessed from a dedicated area of the SFC website. This summary is organised according to the Scottish Government priority themes of:

- Opportunities for all
- Right learning in the right place
- Learner Success
- Employer engagement
- Efficiency and structural change

The 2013-14 college outcome agreements represent another significant step towards the funding of a college sector that is focussed on the needs of learners and which excels at supporting businesses and communities across Scotland.

Laurence Howells
Interim Chief Executive
Summary of college outcome agreements for 2013-14

Below we have summarised the key national impact of the college outcome agreements, finalised by the Scottish Funding Council with the thirteen college regions in Scotland and with Sabhal Mor Ostaig and Newbattle Abbey College. The agreements are for academic year 2013-14, starting in August.

Through outcome agreements we have negotiated a commitment from the college sector to deliver a total of 2,262,000 WSUMs\(^1\) an increase of 4\% over 2012-13’s target:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College region</th>
<th>2013-14 WSUM targets (000’s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire</td>
<td>178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayrshire</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edinburgh and Lothians</td>
<td>257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands and Islands</td>
<td>155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>144</td>
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<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lothian</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Based (SRUC)</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newbattle Abbey College</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabhal Mòr Ostaig</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2262</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

\(^1\)The Scottish Funding Council measures college activity by the volume of learning hours delivered. We call this a SUM (a student unit of measurement). One SUM equals 40 hours of learning. SFC funding is weighted to reflect the cost of delivering different subjects and providing for different groups of learners. From this weighting the Funding Council establishes learning activity targets for colleges. These are called WSUMs. We are working with the sector to replace this measure with a simpler, more transparent one for next year.
Opportunities for all

The 2013-14 outcome agreements will ensure that college regions are committed to fulfilling their crucial role in delivering *Opportunities for All* to provide education and training for 16 to 19 year olds and 19-24 year olds where possible.

For example, all college regions have committed close to 50% of their courses for 16-19 year olds and almost 70% of all courses will be targeted on those aged 16-24 years of age.

Recognising the uniqueness of each region, we have negotiated that college regions prioritise courses for young people to best meet area need. For example, the City of Glasgow College will ensure 70% of its courses are available to 16-24 year olds whilst in the Highlands and Islands 77% of courses are for 16-24 year olds.

To meet the needs of young people, college regions have committed to adapting their curriculum and working with schools in new ways. For example, Edinburgh College will increase the proportion of its courses at SCQF levels 4 and 5 from 25% to 40% as part of its strategy to increase enrolments from schools with high levels of leavers entering a negative destination. Similarly Forth Valley College will deliver a new suite of vocational courses for 120 secondary school pupils across eight target schools in the region.

The agreements also establish college commitments to respond to the employability needs of young people. This includes an expanded Modern Apprenticeship programme delivered in partnership with Skills Development Scotland, and a range of new flexible courses, available throughout the year, for those 16 – 19 year olds who have little or no formal qualifications and who face significant barriers to employment.

Right learning in the right place
We want colleges to deliver education and training provision that meets the changing social and economic needs of individual regions and of Scotland as a whole, and which improves the life chances of learners and supports jobs, growth and sustainability.

SFC has asked colleges in some regions to offer more provision within their local area than in previous years, reflecting the demography of Scotland. Fewer students will therefore have to travel to our cities to access relevant courses although they may still choose to do so. As colleges will be engaging with community planning partnerships and local employers to help ensure college activity meets the needs of the local communities and labour market this will mean that students are offered
more accessible and relevant provision to support the needs of the individual and region.

In 2013-14, the college sector is committed to deliver extra full and part time courses to better meet the needs of women and older learners. For example, the City of Glasgow College will deliver nearly 10,000 additional WSUMS for those aged 25 to 64 years of age as part of its community engagement strategy. The Tayside college region is committing almost 30% of all its WSUMS, nearly 44,000 WSUMS, to continue to meet the needs of learners in Angus. Similarly, an additional 4,000 WSUMS will be made available to deliver new opportunities for adults in the West region and West Lothian College, through its partnership with West Lothian Council will deliver an additional 100 places for adult learners through their community partnership centres.

College regions are also working to increase the proportion of women on courses traditionally associated with male learners. For example, Forth Valley College plans to increase the number of women studying applied science and computing and from 4% to 10% in engineering by 2017.

**Learner success**

We want learners to receive the best possible service, so that their learning journeys are as short, efficient and effective as possible and they experience the highest quality learning and teaching.

In particular, we want the college sector to improve learner success so that more learners complete courses, gain qualifications and achieve progression. To deliver the Scottish Government’s ambitions for *regionalisation*, we want the new regional colleges to create new more efficient learner routes into and through higher education working with universities to deliver guaranteed progression.

For the 2013-14 outcome agreements we have negotiated targets for college regions to increase the numbers of learners completing courses. Based on the commitments made by college regions in their outcome agreements we project around 1000 more full time learners (FE and HE) successfully completing their courses in 2013-14 than in 2011-12. This figure is based on a review of FT FE and HE completion projections in light of 2011-12 student volumes and for 2010-11 for City of Glasgow College and the Fife college region.

Individual college regions have set out in their outcome agreements their own specific improvements in learner success and efficient learner progression. For example, Borders College is committed to 80% of its learners achieving a nationally recognised qualification, and plans to deliver an additional 20 Higher National places
to respond to local employer need as part of new progression opportunities with Edinburgh College, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University.

In our negotiations we have focussed on ensuring particular groups of learners get the additional support they need and have required college regions to set additional performance targets where necessary. West Lothian College, for example, is committed to increase the attainment of 16-19 year old males – from 63% to 70%.

Realising the benefits of merger, Edinburgh College has committed to support over 370 learners to progress from an HN to a degree level course without the need to repeat levels of study. This is an increase of over 100 and is one of the highest levels of college to university progression in the sector.

Similarly, Forth Valley College will deliver two new degree courses in partnership with Stirling University in Applied Biological Sciences and Heritage and Conservation Management, which will see learners taught for the first two years in college before progressing to year three and finishing their degree at the university.

**Employer engagement**

We want learners to develop the skills and knowledge they need to get a job or get a better job, keep a job, and develop a career. At the same time we want colleges to respond to local, regional and national labour markets, so that there is a good supply of high-quality labour available and enough training and development opportunities available to employers and employees.

Recognising the role colleges’ play in workforce development and in meeting the needs of employers, we have negotiated commitments from college regions to increase employer engagement in 2013/14. This will be achieved in a range of ways, involving, for example, new work placement opportunities and new courses to meet regional and national economic need.

For example, Forth Valley College will develop a new energy skills academy to support the Scottish Government’s ambitions in relation to training for the oil and gas industry. They have also adapted their curriculum to ensure that over 50% of courses are now directly related to the Scottish Government’s key employment sectors.

City of Glasgow College will commit an extra 5,000 WSUMS to courses specifically designed to respond to local economic need as part of their new employer academy programme. Similarly, West Lothian College plans to realign its curriculum to respond to a recent skills supply and demand study and address the deficit in higher level skill opportunities in transport, Logistics, IT, and engineering.
All college regions will for the first time make use of specific skills funding from the SFC to better support national and regional economic development opportunities, including, for example, *Wind Turbine and Lines Technician Training* in Dumfries and Galloway and *Renewable Energy and Life Sciences* in Edinburgh.

**Efficiency and structural change**

We want to deliver a system of regional colleges, or groups of colleges, working together with universities and other stakeholders to meet the demographic, social and economic priorities of their regions.

Our ambition is for these new regional colleges to become more efficient to better serve learners and stakeholders and to reduce costs. To this end, we plan to deliver 8 college mergers in 2013-14 in the following regions:

- Aberdeen and Banff and Buchan College aim to become the North East Scotland College from 1st November 2013.
- Ayr College, Kilmarnock College and the Kilwinning Campus of James Watt College aim to become Ayrshire College from 1st August 2013.
- Reid Kerr College, Clydebank College and the Inverclyde campuses of James Watt College aim to become West College, Scotland from 1st August 2013.
- Adam Smith College and Carnegie College aim to become the Fife College from 1st August 2013.
- Cardonald College, Anniesland College and Langside College aim to become the Glasgow Clyde College from the 1st August 2013.
- North Glasgow College, Stow College and John Wheatley College aim to merge from 1 November 2013 (a name for the new college is not yet established).
- Dundee College and Angus College aim to become Dundee and Angus College from 1st November 2013.
- Motherwell College and Cumbernauld College aim to become New College Lanarkshire from 1st November 2013.

Efficiencies are also being developed through shared service arrangements in Highlands and Islands and West Lothian and in the national specialist institutions of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Newbattle College.