

College Outcome Agreement Guidance AY 2015-16

Annex C: Alignment with Single Outcome Agreement reporting

1. We expect to see continued improvement in the involvement of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) in the development of outcome agreements.

Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

2. In light of the recommendations of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (covered in more detail in the Guidance – page 20 and **Annex D**) there will be a greater onus in AY 2014-15 and beyond on colleges to jointly plan provision with a range of stakeholders including local authorities, CPPs and local employability partnerships.

European Social Fund

3. Colleges will be expected to work closely with CPP partners on the new national European Social Fund (ESF) project, managed by SFC, from AY 2015-16 as part of the 'Developing Scotland's Workforce' intervention under the 2014-2020 ESF Programme. Each region should liaise with their CPPs to assess regional skills needs and identify any related gaps in provision. A skills pro-forma will need to be completed on an annual basis for the 6 years of the project (for more details see page 31 in the guidance).

4. SFC expects colleges to make an effective contribution to community planning. Ideally, this would include having senior decision-makers actively participating at a strategic level in relevant CPPs.
5. SFC wants outcome agreements to demonstrate that colleges are both informing the development of, and contributing effectively to, the delivery of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs).
6. We recognise that colleges are operating in different contexts: some in single-college regions, some in multi-college regions, within a variety of structures; and further that several regions cover more than one CPP. This guidance is therefore not intended to be prescriptive, as a 'one size fits all' approach is unlikely to be helpful. Differences in local circumstances will lead to different approaches to ensure the most effective engagement.
7. Education Scotland's Aspect report on colleges and community planning, published in May 2013¹ highlights how colleges can maximise their contribution to community planning in a regional context. It also provides a number of case studies of best practice.
8. The regional context statement of the outcome agreement should include a description of the arrangements in place to ensure effective engagement with relevant CPPs.
9. The targets and measures section should show, where appropriate, a clear and robust link and strong line of sight between the priorities, outcomes, and performance commitments set out in the relevant CPP SOA(s) and a college region's own contribution.
10. The SFC is looking for evidence in outcome agreements that the college region is engaging effectively with CPPs in a way that is delivering better outcomes. It is not necessary to measure the process of that engagement through, for example, the number of CPP meetings attended. The focus should instead be on the impact of that engagement on the delivery of outcomes for people or communities, by showing the outcomes to which the college region is contributing and how that contribution is being made. There are other external processes and quality frameworks that will provide assurance that CPPs are engaging with colleges and vice versa, such as Education Scotland's quality framework.

¹ http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CollegeandCommunityPlanningReport170513_tcm4-757870.pdf

11. In considering how to cover these issues in their outcome agreements, college regions should have regard to the guidance to CPPs on the scope and content of SOAs, which can be found on the Scottish Government website.²

Further information

12. Contact: John Kemp, Director, Access Skills and Outcome Agreements, tel: 0131 313 6637; email: jkemp@sfc.ac.uk.

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/SOA2012/SOA2012>