Objectives and Actions of the APSG

Purpose

In line with paper 03_APSG_19_06_Policy_Updates, this paper aims to outline key aims, objectives and actions of the APSG focussing on deliverables of the group from October 2019 to April 2020, ensuring sustainability of actions moving forward.

Background

The Access Programme's Steering Group was set up to consider and implement recommendation 4 of The Commission on Widening Access' final report *A Blueprint for Fairness*, as well as take into consideration recommendations 7 (Bridging Programmes) and 15 (Early Years Support). The Implementation Overview Report (IOR) provides further information on the key actions and timescales which were agreed for the group with the Scottish Government.

Progress towards IOR timescales

The IOR which was circulated in paper 01_AP_Steering_Group_19_01 at the first meeting of the APSG can be found in Appendix A below. Based on the milestones which were provided, an update on progression towards meeting these timescales is listed below and suggestions on actions to meet future deadlines.

IOR Priorities and Deadlines	APSG Actions
SFC will establish and chair a steering group which will bring together all relevant parties to deliver recommendations 4 and 4a (by **Dec 2018**)	Membership was drawn and first meetings were scheduled. **Complete**
SFC, in partnership with key stakeholders, will agree the scope of the recommendation. This will include determination of what constitutes an access programme in the context of these recommendations. (by **March 2019**)	A draft definition of Access and Bridging Programmes was circulated to APSG and BPAG members, universities and other key stakeholders for feedback. A final definition was then agreed. **Complete**
SFC, Universities Scotland and the Robertson Trust will review relevant access programme mapping exercises which have already been undertaken and will establish what, if any, further mapping needs to be done in the	A mapping exercise was conducted by the SFC into the current landscape in access and bridging programme activity. As this was circulated with the agreed definitions, this allowed us to pick up on key relevant

context of the scope of this recommendation. They will provide advice on this and, if appropriate next steps, to the Steering Group. (by **May 2019**) The Steering Group will establish an understanding of the current landscape informed by the work of the SFC, US, Robertson Trust working group. (by **June 2019**)	programme activity. It was acknowledged that there were limitations to this in particular that it did not include college activity. Key areas for development were highlighted by the SFC and circulated to members. This included Early Years and Primary School Engagement, regional disparity in provision, improving the use of online tools and delivery. **Complete**
The Steering Group will agree the principles of what coherent support is and how it will be assessed and monitored. (by **Sept 2019**)	Members will discuss what coherent support is and how it will be assessed and monitored at the APSG meeting in Oct 2019. An overview will be written up and circulated by December 2019 for member's comment. **Overdue**
The Steering Group will establish the steps required to remove duplication, align programmes to the Framework for Fair Access, and promote 'what works'. (by **Dec 2019**)	SFC will produce a recommended model of national access programme activity based on FfFA, additional evidence, the recent mapping exercise and the conversation around what coherent support is, for discussion at APSG in Jan/Feb 2020. From Jan/Feb 2020 the group will put together recommendations based on each of the six SEF key themes; priorities and targets, expectations, engagement, individual programmes, intersectionality and funding and targeting.
The Steering Group will agree the mechanism to support transferability of programmes and credit rating of programmes, as appropriate, on the SCQF Framework. (by **April 2020**)	The use and transferability of SCQF credit-bearing programmes will be discussed at the January 2020 meeting. Members will also discuss how programmes fit into admissions processes for all learners at all stages – should programmes be taken into consideration as part of admissions processes? What are the barriers to this?
The Steering Group will agree how best to take the work forward across Scotland i.e. regionally, nationally and who is best placed	A draft paper on recommendations of the APSG will be circulated ahead of the April 2020 meeting for feedback. The redrafting

to lead this. (by **April 2020**)	process will be discussed at the April meeting. Recommendations should be given clear ownership and feasibility must be taken into consideration. A timeline will also be discussed alongside the given recommendations.
The Steering Group will develop a timetable for roll out. (by **May 2020**)	A final draft of the groups recommendations/actions will be presented and circulated.

Members are asked to review the timeline provided above and make any further suggestions on additional actions/outcomes of the group.

Outcome Based Remits

Outcome based remits have been discussed and suggestions circulated for potential subgroups to progress key development areas which were highlighted through the mapping exercise. However, there has been very few people sign up to participate in these subgroups. Given the actions and deadlines listed above, members are asked to suggest ways in which members can successfully feed into these; for example, members are grouped and given a key 'specialist' subject on which they present to the group at the Jan/Feb and April 2020 meetings to form the basis of discussion on recommendations for the final report/paper.

Further information

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IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW REPORT	
Recommendation 4 and 4a	Universities, colleges, local authorities, schools, SFC funded access programmes and early years providers should work together to deliver a coordinated approach to access which removes duplication and provides a coherent and comprehensive offer to learners. This should include the development of mechanisms by which access programmes undertaken at one institution, or in one part of the country, can be recognised by other institutions, while also serving institutional and local needs. Credit rating programmes on the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) should be considered where appropriate.
Lead Delivery Partner	SFC [information owner Fiona Burns]
Stakeholder(s)	SFC, SFC funded access programmes, early years providers, Schools, Scottish Colleges and Universities, third sector organisations and charitable trusts (such as The Robertson Trust, Sutton Trust, MCR Pathways, Causeway Education, School Leaders Scotland), SCQF and students.
What will successful delivery look like?	The access offer across Scotland will be comprehensive and coherent with no unnecessary duplication. Access programmes will be given credit where appropriate and be recognised across institutions where-ever possible.

What are the 5 key milestones to implementation and when will they be completed?	1. SFC will establish and chair a steering group which will bring together all relevant parties to deliver recommendations 4 and 4a. (by Dec 2018)
	
	Membership will include:
	   a. universities and colleges,
	   b. students,
	   c. local authorities and schools,
	   d. early years providers,
	   e. SFC funded access programmes ,
	   f. SCQF, and;
	   g. Third sector organisations and charities i.e. Robertson Trust, Sutton Trust, MCR Pathways, Causeway Education.
	
	2. SFC, in partnership with key stakeholders, will agree the scope of the recommendation. This will include

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>determination of what constitutes an access programme in the context of these recommendations. (by March 2019)

3. SFC, Universities Scotland and the Robertson Trust will review relevant access programme mapping exercises which have already been undertaken and will establish what, if any, further mapping needs to be done in the context of the scope of this recommendation. They will provide advice on this and, if appropriate next steps, to the Steering Group. (by May 2019)

4. The Steering Group will:
   a. establish an understanding of the current landscape informed by the work of the SFC, US, Robertson Trust working group. (by June 2019)
   b. agree the principles of what coherent support is and how it will be assessed and monitored. (by Sept 2019)
   c. establish the steps required to remove duplication, align programmes to the Framework for Fair Access, and promote 'what works'. (by Dec 2019)
   d. Agree the mechanism to support transferability of programmes and credit rating of programmes, as appropriate, on the SCQF Framework. (by April 2020)
   e. Agree how best to take the work forward across Scotland i.e. regionally, nationally and who is best placed to lead this. (by April 2020)

5. The steering group will develop a timetable for roll out. (by May 2020)</td></tr>
<tr><td>When will/did implementation start?</td><td>February 2017 (AIC discussion on SFC National School Programme)</td></tr>
<tr><td>When will delivery be complete?</td><td>By April 2020</td></tr>
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