

## **BPAG Aims and Objectives**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper drafts the Bridging Programmes Advisory Group's (BPAG) key aims and objectives for member's comment.

### **Background**

2. It was noted at the June 2019 BPAG meeting that setting key aims and objectives would enable the group to more effectively progress suitable actions and discussion points for future meetings.
3. The proposed aims and objectives have been created to compliment actions listed in the Implementation Overview Report (Appendix 1) as well as frame the direction of the group's discussions from the first two meetings.
4. The table below aims to provide an overarching aim, three key objectives, subsequent actions to reach these, and a proposed deadline date for each action. This is also presented in a timeline format below and is colour-coded based on the three key objectives. Actions are given deadline dates in line with proposed dates for BPAG meetings, therefore this also plans what will be discussed at each meeting.
5. The Aims and Objectives document should be used as a live document in order to track progress to meeting deadlines and to build on any new areas arising.

## Bridging Programmes Advisory Group: Aims and Objectives

**CoWA Recommendation 7:** The Scottish Funding Council, working with professionals, should develop a model of how bridging programmes can be expanded nationally to match need.

- Given the clear benefits to the learner, the model should ensure that academic credit awarded through the completion of such programmes is transferable between universities.
- Successful completion of such programmes may form one of the conditions of the access thresholds to be developed in line with Recommendation 11.
- This model should have particular regard to the evidence that bridging programmes are especially beneficial when delivered earlier in the education journey.

**Overarching aim:**

The establishment of a framework of academic programmes that provide bridging between school or college and university and within which academic credit is consistently awarded and recognised for admission to university.

<b>Research and Alignment</b>	<b>Delivery Model</b>	<b>Academic Benefit and Transferability</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>The group will ensure that the basis of Bridging Programme development and expansion is thoroughly researched and complements other positive work being conducted in the sector, specifically in relation to other CoWA recommendations, the Schools Engagement Framework, Universities Scotland's Working to Widen Access, and the Framework for Fair Access.</i></p>	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>The group will work with partners to create viable regional and national models of Bridging Programmes which draw on and scale up good practice. The group will determine the best stages of delivery for learners.</i></p>	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>The group will explore and advocate for the inclusion of credit bearing elements into programme delivery and encourage partners to take this into consideration during Admissions processes.</i></p>
<p><b>Action:</b> Agree on terminology around 'Bridging' and the remit of the group (Complete – June 2019)</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Develop and consult on possible regional and national models of a Bridging Framework, to understand and test their strengths/limitations, and costing implications.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Assess potential bridging programme components which could host a credit bearing element (Oct 2019)</p>

	(March 2020)	
<u>Action:</u> Map current programme activity (Complete – June 2019)	<u>Action:</u> Through research and discussion with partners, determine if there is scope for ‘core content’ in Bridging Programmes (March 2020)	<u>Action:</u> Further discussion with SCQF to determine feasibility of credit bearing elements (March 2020)
<u>Action:</u> Determine good practice and identify potential gaps in current provision (Oct 2019)	<u>Action:</u> Determine the best Framework model(s) and begin discussions with partners on how to scale up activity to required size (July 2020)	<u>Action:</u> Further discussion with universities to determine how programme elements will be taken into consideration during Admissions processes (March 2020)
<u>Action:</u> Determine scale of national demand for bridging to establish right size for Framework (March 2020)		
<u>Action:</u> Ensure models created seamlessly link to other access programme activity to ensure pipelines of support (Ongoing)	<u>Action:</u> Develop mechanisms to encourage partnership between agencies and institutions in programme delivery (Ongoing)	<u>Action:</u> Formalise partnership agreements which detail how institutions will incorporate Bridging Programme credit into admissions decisions and how this will be made transparent to applicants. (July 2020)
<u>Action:</u> Agree an evaluation model for the Bridging Framework which complements the work of the Framework for Fair Access (July 2020)	<u>Action:</u> Establish continued governance of the Bridging Framework (November 2020)	<u>Action:</u> Liaise with partners to incorporate credit bearing elements into the Framework which provide national opportunities for learners (July 2020)
<u>Action:</u> Formally launch Bridging Framework (November 2020)		

Timeline for Bridging Programme Activity		
Date of BPAG meeting	Action	Completed
June 2019	Agree on terminology around 'Bridging' and the remit of the group	Complete
	Map current programme activity	Complete
October 2019	Assess potential bridging programme components which could host a credit bearing element	Current
	Determine good practice and identify potential gaps in current provision.	Current
March 2020	Further discussion with SCQF to determine feasibility of credit bearing elements	
	Determine scale of national demand for bridging to establish right size for Framework	
	Develop and consult on possible regional and national models of a Bridging Framework, to understand and test their strengths/limitations, and costing implications	
	Through research and discussion with partners, determine if there is scope for 'core content' in Bridging Programmes	
	Further discussion with universities to determine how programme elements will be taken into consideration during Admissions processes	
	Ensure models created seamlessly link to other access programme activity to ensure pipelines of support	
July 2020	Determine the best Framework model(s) and begin discussions with partners on how to scale up activity to required size	
	Develop mechanisms to encourage partnership between agencies and institutions in programme delivery	
	Formalise partnership agreements which detail how institutions will incorporate Bridging Programme credit into admissions decisions and how this will be made transparent to applicants.	
	Liaise with partners to incorporate credit bearing elements into the Framework which provide national opportunities for learners	
	Agree an evaluation model for the Bridging Framework which complements the work of the Framework for Fair Access	
November 2020	Establish continued governance of the Bridging Framework	
	Formally launch Bridging Framework	

### Further information

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## Appendix A: Implementation Overview Report – Recommendation 7

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW REPORT	
<b>Recommendation 7</b>	<p>The Scottish Funding Council, working with professionals, should develop a model of how bridging programmes can be expanded nationally to match need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the clear benefits to the learner, the model should ensure that academic credit awarded through the completion of such programmes is transferrable between universities.</li> <li>Successful completion of such programmes may form one of the conditions of the access thresholds to be developed in line with recommendation 11.</li> </ul> <p>This model should have particular regard to the evidence that bridging programmes are especially beneficial when delivered earlier in the education journey.</p>
<b>Lead Delivery Partner</b>	SFC [information owner Fiona Burns]
<b>Stakeholder(s)</b>	<p><i>i.e. who are the key stakeholders in delivery of this recommendation?</i></p> <p>Scottish Universities and Colleges, schools, funders of existing summer schools and bridging programmes including – The Robertson Trust and Sutton Trust and students.</p>
<b>What will successful delivery look like?</b>	We will have a clear plan as to how bridging programmes can be expanded nationally to meet need. The model will ensure that academic credit awarded for completion of the programme is recognised at all HEI's in Scotland.
<b>What are the 5 key milestones to implementation and when will they be completed?</b>	<p><i>i.e. what are you going to do to deliver on the recommendation and when will you do it by?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFC will set up an advisory group including key stakeholders (as above). The advisory group will agree the scope of the project, which should align with the Commission's definition of a bridging programme as set out on page 31 of its final report. (first meeting by</li> </ol>

	<p>October 2018)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. SFC will work with the current US Bridging Programme work stream and implementation, and the Framework for Fair Access, to identify good practice i.e. what does an effective bridging programme contain and achieve. (by April 2019)</li> <li>3. The advisory group will develop a model for expansion of bridging programmes nationally in line with need. This will be referred to as the National Framework for Bridging Programmes and will include guidance on bridging programmes including their transferability and allocation of credit.</li> </ol> <p>Key priorities will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Consideration of a range of options to scale up delivery.</li> <li>b. Full alignment with the Framework for Fair Access</li> <li>c. Allocation of SCQF credit and/or currency in all Access Thresholds</li> <li>d. Transferability of programmes, including scope for agreement of 'core content'.</li> </ol> <p>The model and guidance will be agreed by May 2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. SFC will consult on the National Framework with the aim of full implementation by April 2021</li> <li>5. SFC will monitor the impact of the National Framework. (by May 2022)</li> </ol>
<b>When will/did implementation start?</b>	February 2017 (start of US Bridging Programmes and admission work streams)
<b>When will delivery be complete?</b>	By May 2022