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# SFC REVIEW OF COHERENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

## A COMMON APPROACH TO QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ENHANCEMENT ACROSS THE TERTIARY SECTOR

### STEERING GROUP

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1. This paper outlines the purpose, remit and membership of the Steering Group for phase three (co-creation) of work to support development of a common approach to quality assurance and enhancement across the tertiary sector.

#### Context

2. SFC's Review Coherence and Sustainability: A review of tertiary education and research<sup>1</sup> was published in June 2021. Scottish Ministers responded asking SFC to take forward the recommendation to explore options for developing a single tertiary quality assurance and enhancement framework for Scotland's fundable further and higher education to provide assurance and enhancement of provision to uphold academic standards and enhance the learning experience of all students.
3. SFC will work with the Steering Group which will be made up of partners, experts and stakeholders to develop and shape phase three - the co-creation of a common approach to quality assurance and enhancement across the tertiary sector.
4. The paragraphs below set out the purpose, remit and membership for the Steering Group.

#### Purpose

5. To provide strategic advice and guidance to SFC on the co-creation of a common framework approach to quality assurance and enhancement across the tertiary sector.
6. To ensure relevant stakeholder groups (sector Principals, students, institutions and strategic partners) and other experts have line of sight into developments on quality

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<sup>1</sup> SFC's Review: [Coherence and Sustainability: A review of tertiary education and research \(June 2021\)](#)

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arrangements through this group.

7. To provide specialist, creative and practical advice as this work develops. Individuals, as members of the group, will therefore not represent their own organisation but will draw on their knowledge, expertise and experience of the sector.

## Remit

8. Provide expert advice and guidance to support SFC's work on the co-creation of our approach to quality assurance and enhancement across the tertiary sector which ensures all fundable FE and HE provision provides a high-quality learning and teaching experience for students.
9. Assist SFC in identifying issues that are fundamental or that have primacy to the design of arrangements for enhancing and assuring the quality of provision.
10. Consider how this work connects across SFC's areas of work and demonstrate accountability for public funds.
11. Develop an approach to collaboration between the sectors that can benefit learning, teaching and outcomes for students across the tertiary system of education.
12. Develop how our approach to quality assurance and enhancement across the tertiary sector can support new delivery systems and new provision e.g. work-based learning and micro credentials, and transitions for learners across and within our system of provision.
13. The group will support decision-making and help shape positions that will enable SFC to share papers and bring material into other forums and relevant SFC decision-making committees or the Scottish Government, as appropriate.

## Meeting protocol

14. The Group will initially be a short-term group running February - June 2023. It is anticipated the group will meet around three times in that period. The first meeting will take place in February 2023.
15. Individual group members may also be asked to act as critical friends outside the whole group format on aspects of our proposals where they have expertise.

## Governance, structure and ways of working

16. The group will be chaired by SFC Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes and will be Co-Chaired by a representative of the college and the university sectors and the president of NUS Scotland as outlined below. Support and secretariat will be provided by SFC.
17. SFC may share sensitive information within the working group and request that such information/papers and the content of discussions be treated confidentially.

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## Membership

18. The group is drawn from colleagues across the Scottish FE and HE sectors who have significant experience of supporting quality enhancement and assurance strategies, structures and pedagogy.
19. Individuals, as members of the group, will not represent their own organisation but will draw on their knowledge, expertise and experience of the sector.

20. The Steering Group membership is:

<b>Steering Group membership</b>
<b>Chair</b> James Dunphy, Director ALO, SFC
<b>Co-chair</b> Prof Moira Fischbacher-Smith, Vice Principal, Learning and Teaching, University of Glasgow
<b>Co-chair</b> Ellie Gomersall, President NUS Scotland
<b>Co-chair</b> Simon Hewitt, Principal, Dundee and Angus College, and Chair College VP Network
Dr Kyrsten Black, Registrar, Scotland's Rural College
Dr Claire Carney, Vice Principal Student Experience, City of Glasgow College
Dr Kirsty Conlon, Head of Learning and Teaching, Universities Scotland
Douglas Dickson, Vice Principal Learning, Skills & Student Experience, Dumfries and Galloway College
Simon Earp, Vice Principal, Performance and Improvement, West Lothian College
Brian Green, Deputy Associate Principal, Learning and Teaching, University of Strathclyde
Prof Tina Harrison, Assistant Principal, Academic Standards and Quality Assurance, University of Edinburgh
Ann Heron, Head of Quality Enhancement, Ayrshire College, and Chair College Quality Network
Nichola Kett, Chair of The Quality Forum
Prof Lynn Kilbride, Vice Principal Academic Development & Student Experience, Robert Gordon University
Eve Lewis, Director, sparqs
Robin McGregor, Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality, North East Scotland College
Cathy McNab, Assistant Principal Performance and Skills, West College Scotland
Kathryn O'Loan, Assistant Director, Learning and Quality, SFC
Prof Clare Peddie, Vice-Principal Education (Proctor), University of St. Andrews
Prof Alastair Robertson, Pro Vice Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, Glasgow Caledonian University, and Chair of SHEEC, and VP
Andy Witty, Director Sector Policy, Colleges Scotland
Observer Gill Ritchie, Director Strategy (Interim) Education Scotland
Observer Dr Alastair Delaney, Deputy Operating Officer, QAA

<b>SFC Learning and Quality Team</b>
Karen Gray, Quality Manager (secondment)
Derek Horsburgh, Senior Policy Officer
Debra Macfarlane, Quality Enhancement Consultant (secondment)
Elaine Malcolm, Group Co-ordinator

