

The 2nd meeting of the Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability Programme Board was held on Wednesday 26 August at 9.30am, by videoconference.

Present: Karen Watt (Chair)
Dr Richard Armour
Martin Boyle
Sarah Davidson
Martin Fairbairn
Dr Stuart Fancey
Dr Donna MacKinnon
Scott McLarty
Grant Ritchie
Professor Petra Wend

Officers: Lynne Raeside (Head of External Affairs)
Jane McAteer (Review Programme Manager)
Cath Carr (Review Secretariat)

Apologies: Lorna Gibbs
Lorna MacDonald

1/1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the second meeting of the Programme Board, and Sarah Davidson to what was her first meeting of the Programme Board.

The Chair provided a recap on the role and purpose of the programme board which is to oversee the delivery of the review, ensure the programme is on track and to ensure that stakeholders are fully engaged in the review, and recommendations and decisions are appropriately directed within SFC, to Scottish Ministers and to funded bodies.

For the purposes of transparency, the terms of reference and the minutes of the meetings will be published on the SFC website along with the biographies of non-SFC board members.

1/2 Draft minute of the first meeting of the board held on 14 August 2020.

The Chair introduced the draft minute from the previous meeting.

The minute was approved.

1/3 Presentation of emerging themes

The Chair informed the meeting that the themes that had emerged from an initial analysis of the submissions received from the SFC Call for Evidence had been presented to the SFC Board and would form the subject of discussion with Scottish Government Ministers the next day, in line with SFC's commitment to provide an initial update to Ministers by the end of August.

The Chair also advised that a more detailed analysis of the submissions was underway and that this analysis, together with evidence received via roundtable discussions, advisory groups and commissioned work, would feed into SFC's formal report.

The Chair gave an overview of the early emerging themes and highlighted that the themes provided a view of what a coherent system looks like for: learners; employers and business; and for Scotland as a whole. The Chair also provided an indication of the changes stakeholders have suggested in the areas of: the learner and the learner journey; long term strategic relationships with business; models of delivery; research; innovation; and funding and outcomes.

Comments were invited from members. Members noted:

- The depth and breadth of agenda emerging from a wide range of stakeholders.

- The current uncertainty surrounding key drivers (for example, European funding).
- The need to be open about the impacts any change could have, both positive and negative, and to manage expectations regarding the extent of change.
- The long timeframe for change to happen in the sectors and the need to consider what is immediate and what requires a longer period for development.
- The internal capacity of SFC to help support change within the sector and to its own systems and frameworks.
- The value of opening up discussion in the areas that have emerged from the evidence, in order to help focus discussions for Phase 2.
- Many people across Scotland have a stake in education and the changes this review could bring about, so there is a need to ensure our engagement strategy recognises that breadth of interest.

1/4 Communication and Engagement Strategy

The Programme Board received an update on SFC’s Communication and Engagement Strategy for the Review and on the recent engagement work that had been carried out with stakeholders using roundtable discussions framed around the Call for Evidence.

In discussion the Board noted:

- Further engagement with business and industry is planned for Phase One, alongside further engagement with students.
- The importance of asking questions that keep the discussion open and allowing enough space and time for further feedback.

1/5 Project Plan and Policy Grid

The Programme Board received an update on the Project Plan and Policy Grid. All workstreams were on target.

1/6 Risk Register

The Programme Board received an update on SFC’s Risk Register for the Review.

In discussion the Programme Board noted that the project would benefit from having more detail around risks associated with Brexit.

1/7 Any other business

The Chair thanked members for attending and for their feedback.

1/8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting date is to be confirmed by the secretariat shortly.