

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability Programme Board was held on Friday 30 October at 11am by videoconference.

**Present:** Karen Watt (Chair)  
Dr Richard Armour  
Martin Boyle  
Martin Fairbairn  
Dr Stuart Fancey  
Lorna Gibbs  
Scott McLarty  
Grant Ritchie  
Gregor Scotland  
Professor Petra Wend

**Officers:** Claire McPherson (Deputy Director)  
Fiona Burns (Assistant Director)  
Jane McAteer (Review Programme Manager)  
Lynne Raeside (Head of External Affairs)  
Cath Carr (Review Secretariat)

**Apologies:** Sarah Davidson  
Lorna MacDonald

**1/1 Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed members to the third meeting of the Programme Board, and Gregor Scotland and Claire McPherson to what was their first meeting of the Programme Board.

The Chair provided a reminder of the ground rules of the Programme Board which were that all members would provide challenge and questions and take part in free and frank confidential discussion.

**1/2 Draft minute of the second meeting of the board held on 26 August 2020.**

The Chair introduced the draft minute from the previous meeting.

The minute was agreed

**1/3 Review of Phase 1: Responses and Reactions**

The Programme Board received a paper with an overview of the responses from the publication of the Phase 1 Report.

Phase 1 had generated feedback which was reflected back through the Phase 1 report and would now be used to help SFC to make decisions about which strands to take forward for further development. The Chair stressed the benefit of collaborating with stakeholders in doing this.

The Chair expressed gratitude to members who had provided comments and helped to shape the Phase 1 report and suggested the group reflect on responses to the report before they begin planning for Phase 2.

In discussion the Programme Board noted:

- Stakeholders are positive about the report and appreciate the openness and depth of it including the detail on potential for change.
- Stakeholders are impressed by how the report has framed the agenda and also the ambition.
- Stakeholders are keen to understand how ambitious ministers will be.
- Scottish Government ministers are pleased with the collaborative approach that SFC is taking. SFC expects a response to the report from ministers before the next SFC Board meeting.
- Stakeholders outside of Scotland are interested in the report.
- The importance of keeping the conversation going.
- Decisions would need to be considered in a changing environment which impacts on SFC as well as its stakeholders.

- The need to balance dealing with short term issues in the emergency years and being dynamic for the future.

## **1/4 Review Phase 2: Initial Project Plan**

The Programme Board received a paper providing an overview of the initial mapping of phase 2 requirements and an outline of the work that SFC had already committed to over the phase 2 period plus the extra demands that had come about due to the pandemic.

In discussion the Programme Board noted:

- The challenge of planning and prioritising for an ambitious agenda whilst managing the day to day operations plus the unknown demands caused by other significant issues E.g. Covid-19, UKRI Research and EU Exit.
- Availability of resources for phase 2 work - this is an opportunity for SFC to reflect on the way it has been operating and review existing commitments and processes for duplication and overlap.
- SFC's resources may need to be re-directed in areas with limited resilience in response to known and unknown issues in the sector or wider.
- Consideration to be given to what expectations SFC should have of stakeholders in helping to develop work in phase 2.
- Strands/ideas to focus on in phase 2 – use of options appraisal to judge where the biggest impact would be made. Such an appraisal would require criteria which could be developed with the sector.
- Development of business and industry links. SFC to broaden the conversation about business and industry links with education and to help relationship building between business and industry and institutions.
- Need for SFC to consider how it could strategically re-position itself around big economic and social challenges including consideration of its role, collaborations, how it could be more strategic with its investments and how it could make its funding streams more accessible to employers.
- The use of horizon planning to identify existing stakeholder groups which could be used for consultation in phase 2.

## **1/5 Phase 2: Future Engagement**

LR provided an overview of the strategy for future engagement. Future engagement activity would be driven by decisions made on what are the key priorities for phase 2. Areas identified for focus so far were: engagement through existing channels to get reaction to the phase 1 report and understanding what contacts think the key priorities should be for phase 2 and engagement with the new Student Advisory Group, the business community and the local authority community.

In discussion the Programme Board noted:

- SFC had received invitations to engage with various groups in phase 2.
- The need to stimulate and build on the debate and interest in the review.
- The need to continue learning from external insights.

## **1/6 Phase 2: Risk Register**

The Programme Board received the updated Risk Register for the Review.

In discussion the Programme Board noted the importance of being aware of external factors which could impact the review.

## **1/7 Any other business**

The Chair thanked members for attending and for their feedback.

## **1/8 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be in January 2021. The date will be confirmed by the secretariat.