

To be sent to reviewsecretariat@sfc.ac.uk by **10 August 2020**

I am writing to provide input to SFC's Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability in Further and Higher Education: Call for Evidence.

In particular, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's response relates to the following three areas:

- *Anchor institutions and place. Colleges and universities play an important role in bringing together people, activities, assets, skills, resources and investment for a greater sense of identity and purpose in particular locations and local communities. They are also key to developing local ecosystems that diffuse innovation, and maximise local impacts and productivity gains.*
- *A rapid response to the current Covid-19 emergency means we must continue to rapidly focus our funding, operations, accountability frameworks and incentives at the unfolding health, employment, social and economic crisis; and enable us and funded bodies to provide an agile and significant role in Scotland's recovery.*
- *Economic recovery and the skills system. Colleges and universities will be central to the economic recovery, and skills and labour market interventions. We expect colleges and universities to have strong industry and business connections to provide flexible, responsive and applied learning and skills; to consider how best to equip students for employment, further study and fulfilling lives; and to balance basic research with applied research, innovation and knowledge made useful – to fight Covid-19 and to support Scotland's social and economic recovery. We will explore the sectors' contribution to different forms of work-based learning. The issue lies in the balance of all things and the role of individual institutions within these broad system objectives.*

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GG&C) has have worked in partnership with the University of Glasgow over a number of years to build world class infrastructure and ensure that innovation and research are embedded within the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus. This has included building dedicated space for industry and leading clinical academics, including accommodation for the Precision Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre, state of the art Clinical Research Facilities, Biorepository and a £32 million Imaging Centre of Excellence, supported by Glasgow City Deal and incorporating the UK's first 7 Tesla MRI scanner in a clinical environment. During the COVID- 19 emergency the Glasgow Clinical Research Facility (GCRF) expertise, ability to work across specialties and deliver NIHR Urgent Public Health Prioritised and ACCORD platform trials has been clearly demonstrated. Critical to success has been the CRF existing team structures that can be rolled out to meet national/regional challenges and form the nucleus around which other resources can coalesce to scale up rapidly and allow efficient deployment.

NHS GG&C is welcoming to industry, and the 'triple-helix' of NHS, University and Industry is now driving an unprecedented culture of innovation, included a skilled, forward thinking NHS workforce. We are a key partner in the £15m UKRI iCAIRD (the Industrial Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research in Digital Diagnostics), which is bringing digital innovation into pathology and radiology. As identified in the 2019 BEIS Precision Medicine Science and Innovation Audit, the QEUH campus is uniquely placed to realise the potential of precision medicine and drive economic growth, through a combination of early leadership and vision in precision medicine, investment in unique infrastructure and, as a result, unmatched delivery capability in a co-located environment.

NHS GG&C are a key consortium partner in the recently-funded £38m Strength in Places Fund award to create a Living Laboratory at the QEUH campus, which provides a transformational opportunity to deliver beneficial economic impact for Glasgow as well as patient benefit and significant NHS savings. Led by the University of Glasgow, the Living Laboratory will enable a step-change in accelerating healthcare innovation and mainstreaming it into standard clinical practice and will create unrivalled infrastructure and resources to support clinical validation and adoption. These projects will help to address many of the challenges facing the NHS in Scotland – the rising costs of healthcare due to a growing and ageing population, the challenges of a local population with multiple chronic diseases and multiple medications, and the significant numbers of adverse reactions and ineffective medications. The annual medicines cost for NHS GG&C alone is £425 million and rising at almost 10% per annum (not including the associated hospital admissions costs arising from ineffective treatments or adverse reactions), so the anticipated savings (through healthcare costs avoidance) that the Living Laboratory will enable are both welcomed and urgently required.

The University of Glasgow has demonstrated its openness and keenness to collaborate with the NHS alongside colleagues in industry, with Government, funding/enterprise bodies and others in the HE and FE sector to ensure we use the pandemic as an accelerator for change and so that Scotland's HE sector can reach its full potential in research, innovation and learning and teaching. The University of Glasgow has led the creation and development of Lighthouse Laboratory in Glasgow, a key Covid-19 Testing Centre in Scotland. In partnership with industry and working closely with NHS Scotland and Scottish Government, the Lighthouse Lab is forecasting to achieve a 50,000 daily capacity – greatly benefiting the Scottish population and supporting the Scottish NHS.

There is an opportunity for SFC to work with the Scottish Government as facilitators of collaboration between academia, NHS and industry based on shared common goals and strengths. SFC and enterprise bodies should work more closely with universities on planning and collaboration. SFC and Skills Development Scotland already collaborate on skills provision but will need closer working and joint planning on a regional approach to enhance regional collaboration.

Research funding should be focused on areas and which can foster clusters of excellence and leverage maximum economic impact for Scotland, e.g. precision medicine and diagnostics.

A highly-skilled workforce requires an environment with a critical mass of innovative, outward-looking and productive companies that facilitates appropriate job matching and can utilise the benefits of research-intensive universities. Scotland already has a number of areas of strength distributed across its major cities, which should be further supported and developed to establish an international reputation within these sectors.

Annex B

Respondent Information Form

Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Funding Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.