

SEAL Committee Progress Report

Purpose

1. This paper provides the SEAL Committee with a brief progress report from the last meeting. It is for noting.

An integrated tertiary and skills for learners and employers

2. The SFC Review Phase 2 report on Coherence and Sustainability is due to be published in w/c 22 March 2021. One of the sections will cover an integrated tertiary and skills ecosystem.

Quality assurance and enhancement

3. This area is being covered in SEAL paper 21/02 Quality of the student experience for this meeting.

Skills alignment, Foundation and Graduate Apprenticeships

4. Skills alignment emerged as a key theme in the SFC Review Phase 1 report with the need for more tertiary and skills system. During Phase 2 we have been discussing with Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland the ways in which both priorities in this area and the way in which we work will change, informed by the work of our Review.
5. Progress with the implementation plan and funding for Foundation and Graduate Apprenticeships is being covered in SEAL paper 21/03.

Outcomes and Impact Framework 2020-21 and beyond

6. SFC received the college and university Interim Outcome Agreements at the end of January 2021. The executive is currently reviewing them and will provide a summary of key messages to the SEAL Committee at the next meeting. We anticipate the college and university outcome agreements will be published in mid to late April 2021.
7. Planning for AY 2021-22 Outcomes and Impact Framework has been part of SFC Review Phase 2. We plan to discuss some findings at the next meeting.

Access

8. We are currently reviewing our work on Access, to develop an SFC approach to access over the emergency and recovery years based around an overall vision

for an integrated tertiary skills system focused on delivering for students that is open, fair and accessible. This led to a set of proposed primary priorities:

- A whole system approach that widens access, impacts positively on student mental health and wellbeing and is underpinned by equality considerations.
- A focus on current and potential students who are impacted by poverty and financial hardship (including the Commission on Widening Access and digital poverty).
- A focus on current and future Senior Phase pupils impacted by COVID-19 to ensure fair access to pathways for progressing their educational ambitions.

9. More detail on this review will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting, subject to agreement on the long-term agenda.

Recommendation

10. The SEAL Committee is invited to note the content of the paper.

Publication

11. This paper will be published on the Council website following the meeting.

Further information

12. Contact: Nick Stansfeld, SEAL Committee Clerk, email: nstansfeld@sfc.ac.uk