

Item: 4

College Management Council Sub-committee: 24 May 2021.

Progress on Evaluation Report and Enhancement Plan.

Report by Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To advise on the progress against actions set for Orkney College in the Evaluation Report and Enhancement Plan following Education Scotland's Progress Visit carried out on 19 and 20 February 2020.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, on 2 November 2020, the College Management Sub-committee considered the findings of Education Scotland's Progress Visit inspection, carried out on 19 and 20 February 2020, and obtained assurance that progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan was satisfactory.

2.2.

That progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan has been impacted by the ongoing pandemic and the UHI cyber incident in March 2021, in that resources and planning have been directed towards responding to these crises.

The Sub-committee is invited to scrutinise:

2.3.

Further progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, in order to obtain assurance that progress is satisfactory.

3. Background

3.1.

On 19 and 20 February 2020, Orkney College was inspected by Education Scotland, which included an assessment of progress that the College has made with its Enhancement Plan (EP), taking account of any changes to local circumstances. Based on this evidence, the team formed a view as to whether the College has made satisfactory progress with actions in its EP, or had not made satisfactory progress with actions in its EP.

3.2.

On 2 November 2020, when considering the findings of Education Scotland's Progress Visit inspection, the Sub-committee noted:

- That, in 2018, all colleges produced an Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan which was endorsed by the Scottish Funding Council and Education Scotland.
- That, during Progress Visits, colleges demonstrated how well they were delivering on the targets and milestones identified in the Enhancement Plan, as well as outlining any changes to circumstances resulting in revisions to the original objectives.
- That Progress Visits provided reassurance to key stakeholders on the effectiveness of improvement actions undertaken by individual colleges.
- That, whilst undertaking Progress Visits, HM Inspectors of Education took account of the context and individual nature of each college.
- That Orkney College was inspected by Education Scotland in February 2020, with the Report of the Progress Visit attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which had subsequently been endorsed by Education Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council.
- That the areas of review considered during the Progress Visit to Orkney College on 19 and 20 February 2020 related to targets and milestones from the Enhancement Plan, which covered:
 - Outcomes and Impact.
 - Delivery of learning and services to support learning.
 - Leadership and quality culture.
- That the areas of review received a satisfactory grading which was also the overall outcome from the Progress Visit for Orkney College.
- That further areas of work and progress were identified for Orkney College, in line with advancing the Enhancement Plan outlined in the original Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan.

3.3.

An update on progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan was considered by the Sub-committee on 15 March 2021.

4. Progress Made to Date

4.1.

The action points from the inspection findings and further progress made since the meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee on 15 March 2021 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.2.

Progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan has been impacted by the ongoing pandemic and the UHI cyber incident in March 2021, in that resources and planning have been directed towards responding to these crises.

4.3.

Orkney College now has a new HM Inspector, Barbara Nelson, who has replaced John Bowditch.

5. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and scrutiny and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6. Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications arising from this noting report.

7. Legal Aspects

The Council should comply with all legal recommendations made and subject to that, there are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Contact Officers

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9. Appendix

Appendix 1: Education Scotland, Orkney College Progress Visit Report – progress against actions.

Education Scotland

College Progress Visit Report, Orkney College, February 2020

Progress Against Actions

ACTION	Progress	COMMENT
OUTCOMES AND IMPACT		
<p>College managers should continue to roll out plans for performance tools and processes that support curriculum teams to analyse and reflect on programme performance.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p><u>15/03/21</u> The College has continued to work with the Management Information Officer and UHI on identifying and applying new tools and will continue to do so.</p> <p><u>24/05/21</u> The launch of a new UHI Dashboard tool for evaluating performance and performance indicators at course level has been delayed due to the ongoing pandemic and more recently the cyber incident. Once the systems are fully operational this will be rolled out across the College.</p>

DELIVERY OF LEARNING AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT LEARNING		
<p>Although work placements support learners on many programmes, most teaching staff are not aware of, or using, the Work Placement Standard:</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p><u>15/03/21</u> A lead within the College has been identified to ensure that policy is adopted and adapted to local requirements for the Work Placement Standards and to support departments dealing with work placements. This will be cross referenced in the Vocational Training & Education Group (VTEG) in the College.</p> <p><u>25/05/21</u> Work placements have been a particular challenge in the 20/21 academic year due to restrictions and has required curriculum adjustments and alternative work-experience models.</p>
<p>Due to staff absence, no Practice and Pedagogy sessions have been held in the current academic year. The college plans to recommence these sessions when a new postholder is appointed.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p><u>15/03/21</u> The appointment of the new Assistant Principal will facilitate further development of Practice and Pedagogy sessions for staff, though in the current year there has been much work in this area in responding to the need for alternative learning and teaching modes of delivery and assessment.</p> <p><u>24/05/21</u> All staff training in the near future will focus on Sharepoint and other cloud-based systems.</p>

<p>There are no progression routes available for learners completing the Skills for Work National 5 engineering programme this summer. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency to meet the needs of these learners, and to support the college's commitment to increasing participation in engineering and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programmes.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p><u>15/03/21</u> The College worked with HMIE to develop a new National 5 course, which was in place for the new student intake for 2020. Unfortunately, this did not receive sufficient applications for it to be run. The College will review this offer, and either offer it to students again for the 2021 intake or seek to replace it with an alternative offer.</p> <p><u>24/05/21</u> A Foundation Apprenticeship has been offered to schools for 21/22.</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP AND QUALITY CULTURE</p>		
<p>The Inspection Report indicated that, at this time, there were no further actions that needed to be completed.</p>		