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CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject: Learning for Leading Scheme	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: Ian Ireland	**Date:** 15 May 2017

Purpose: To provide the Committee with a summary of Board members' visits to their linked programme areas.

Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.

Executive Summary:

The attached reports provide an account of visits to the following areas:

Health and Social Care (J Martin) on 14 March 2017
Hairdressing and Beauty (E Acaster) on 14 March 2017
Land-based Industries (T Jakimciw) on 29 March 2017
Care (I Ireland) on 21 April 2017

Recommendation:

To note the content of the report.

Previous Committee Approvals:

N/A

For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: Ian Ireland
Faculty/Area: Care programmes
Date of Visit: 21st April 2017
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: Attendance at the Faculty Council meeting and a the subsequent meeting of Faculty Council officers with the Students' Association officers. The meting was attended by 3 members of staff and 7 students along with the President and Vice-President of the Students' Association. There was an opportunity to have a discussion with a couple of students about their experience of the college.
Positive Impressions: The meeting was very well run with a good relationship evident between the staff and students Students' comments were listened to and responded to positively. There was a good dialogue between students and staff. Issues covered included the availability of locker space, library use, communication with work experience providers and the variability of the quality of placements. The Students Association appears to be well regarded by students with positive responses to questions about the role of the SA. The students spoken to have a very positive view of their experience of the college.
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: An issue discussed at the follow up meeting concerned access to rooms at the start of sessions and the effect of being required to wait in corridors on the perceived treatment of students as responsible adults.
Further information required or requested: None

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: Elaine Acaster
Faculty: Hairdressing & Beauty
Date of Visit: 14/03/17
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: • Based on self-assessment report had purposeful discussions with Paula Hutchison (Head of Programme Area) and members of Hairdressing and Beauty Staff – ranging over KPIs – recruitment, retention, outcomes and resource issues; noted recruitment and retention challenging. • Followed up on initiatives to diversify the gender mix and to increase client attendance for hairdressing students. Despite sterling efforts these issues remain challenging. • Students universally positive and working purposefully in both hairdressing and beauty.
Positive Impressions: • Committed staff with excellent industry links, and empathy with students, despite some challenges (see below). • Good resources which were intensively utilised for practicals. • Marketing initiatives to improve diversity and recruitment.
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: • Course Tutors explained their roles are increasingly complex due to issues they deal with in the front line to support distressed students who have e.g. health and social issues which impact on attendance, application to study and disturb other students due to the crisis interventions needed. This applies in particular to hairdressing students. While the Course Tutors praised the work of the Advice Centre team, it was suggested there is not perhaps sufficient training or support for Course Tutors who find themselves in the front line, as the person distressed students turn to first. Referral to the Advice Centre is on-going and it was commented that it is stretched in capacity due to pressure from other courses. • IT resources are slim for integrated learning with only one iPad shared among the salons. As hairdressing is such a visual subject a gradual increase in provision of iPads would be beneficial to also facilitate the use of E-Books.
Further information required or requested: • N/A; follow up at next visit.

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: **Tony Jakimciw**
Faculty: **Land based Industries**
Date of Visit: **29/03/2017**
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: • **Met with Andrew Johnson, Programme Leader and staff and students** • **Visited all facilities at Newton St Boswells** • **Visited Horse course facilities at ISEC and spoke to students and staff** • **Visited land based facilities on the Riddell estate** • **Discussed learner retention and achievement** • **Discussed planned destinations with Animal Care students**
Positive Impressions: • **Students agreed that facilities far better for Animal Care following new arrangement for rooms** • **Acquisition of field adjacent to NSB for Animal Care will further improve facilities** • **Good facilities at ISEC with access to range of horses, but expensive.** • **New laptops at ISEC seen as improvement by students** • **After 2 years of declining numbers applications for Uniformed Services course are up**
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: • **Further outdoor storage at NSB would avoid need to store resources in workshops overnight – finding on site location will be challenging** • **Poor retention on Animal Care. Through discussion with students it was apparent that many did not know what they were doing next as little opportunity for employment in the area. Discussed the possibility of adding enterprise and business elements into the curriculum to increase opportunity for self employment/retail.** • **Only 2 FT staff out of 20 means area is vulnerable in terms of staff continuity**

• **Recruitment for Horse Care 17/18 lower than normal. More proactive marketing and on a national basis might be helpful** • **No external signage to identify reception**
Further information required or requested: • •

BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

LEADING AND LEARNING

Board Member: **Jane Martin**
Programme Area **Health and Social Care**
Date of Visit: **14/3/17**
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: **Meeting with Programme Leader Julie Baxter. Team were undergoing recruitment interviews for next year intake so unable to speak to other members this time.**
Positive Impressions: **The team are very much committed to the students and work well together. There is a good atmosphere in the department and a healthy vibe. Space issues have been addressed and they report that the IT systems are much improved benefiting the students and staff. WIFI and laptops in lockers are both improvements noted. The faculty has had no early withdrawals which is an improvement on previous years. They are looking into the reasons behind the improvement and believe that the financial support is at least one reason they stay. They also introduce the harder units to the students in a controlled and timely way.**
Issues: **There are tensions between taking in students onto the Care National 4 and results/resources. This group are less able and often younger students and they need more support and time spent on them in general. There have been some behavioural issues which again take staff time to manage. Staff believe that although the student may give up, a good experience of college often results in the student returning at a later date once they have recognised the benefit of college courses.** **Staff time is also another issue and they are under pressure to manage an expanding workload and expectation. They are committed to delivering a good performance for the student and the college overall and would like to work out ways to do this within the capacity and resource available.**
Further information required or requested: **None identified**