

# CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Subject:</b> Learning for Leading Scheme	<b>Purpose:</b> <b>For Approval</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>For Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>For Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Prepared by:</b> Ian Ireland	<b>Date:</b> 24 January 2018
<b>Purpose:</b> To provide the Committee with a summary of Board members' visits to their linked programme areas.	
<b>Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.</b>	
<b>Executive Summary:</b>  <p>The attached reports were prepared by Board members following visits to their linked programme areas:</p> <p>HNC Childcare Practice – I Ireland on 1 November 2017          Business – D Peace on 22 November 2017          Land-based – T Jakimciw on 29 November 2017          Business (Faculty team visit) – D Peace on 7 December 2017</p> <p>Also attached is a report of the visit by J Martin to the Health &amp; Social Care area on 9 June 2017, which has not been previously seen by the Committee.</p>	
<b>Recommendation:</b> None	
<b>Previous Committee Approvals:</b> n/a	
For publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For publication with redactions <input type="checkbox"/> Not for publication <input type="checkbox"/>

## **BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

### **LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT**

<b>Board Member:</b> Ian Ireland
<b>Faculty/Area:</b> Care programmes - HNC Childcare practice
<b>Date of Visit:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017
<b>Summary of activities undertaken during visit:</b>  Attendance at a class and discussion with individual students regarding their current and previous experience.
<b>Positive Impressions:</b>  The class was well taught with students well involved with the subject and showing good knowledge. It was clear that the tutor was knowledgeable and there was good interaction between tutor and students and within the class. There was good use of technology in the class, and a variety of activity.  Students were happy with the format and content of the course and while many had come straight from school, a number were older and had made positive choices to return to college or move to Borders College from another institution.
<b>Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:</b>
<b>Further information required or requested:</b>

## **BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

### **LEADING AND LEARNING**

<b>Board Member:</b> <b>David Peace</b>
<b>Programme Area</b> <b>Business</b>
<b>Date of Visit:</b> <b>22 November 2017</b>
<b>Summary of activities undertaken during visit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Attended Faculty Council meeting</b></li><li>• <b>Arranged with programme leader to make another visit to meet and talk to staff</b></li><li>• <b>Agreed with Student Association Rep and Chair of Faculty Council that I should attend faculty council meetings when possible as they viewed presence as very useful</b></li></ul>
<b>Positive Impressions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Excellent Student Association support for Faculty Council and for student engagement</b></li><li>• <b>Learning Support and Achievement Helpers at Faculty Council</b></li><li>• <b>Teaching and support staff treated Class Reps with respect, taking on board their comments and answering their queries where possible</b></li><li>• <b>Class reps clearly engaged in improving the student experience for their peers</b></li></ul>
<b>Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ATM out of money regularly or only dispenses £20 notes. No other bank nearby and shop charges for use of card if purchases under £2.50.</b></li><li>• <b>Prices in shop are overly expensive. Example given was bottle of lucozade costing £2 whereas 4 bottles can be bought for £2 at Asda but students do not have time to get to Asda. Feels like Baxter Storey are taking advantage of a captive market.</b></li><li>• <b>Computers and keyboards often filthy. Students accept some responsibility for using wipes to clean PCs but professional cleaning should be carried out more regularly</b></li><li>• <b>Disparity of software on different computers. Example given was on Excel where 2010 version was on some machines and 2016 version on others. This effects students ability to produce</b></li></ul>

**consistency in their work**

- **Lack of space at lunchtimes. Some students having to resort to sitting in their cars to eat lunch**
- **Use of email and Moodle not consistent. Students don't know what is expected of them in how to use**
- **Student uncertainty over anticipated move towards remote learning and portable devices over desktops. Students say Business courses need desktops and physical presence at College to maximise their learning**

**Further information required or requested:**

- **As computers are used by students across many courses, could there be a regular professional clean carried out to be supplemented by students using wipes after every session**
- **ATM contract needs to be investigated and more regular filling instigated. It is unreasonable that it runs out so often**
- **Baxter Storey should be canvassed on providing better value in shop and eatery eg more meal deals, and charges for using cards should be withdrawn**
- **Consultation should be undertaken to determine student preference for College working or remote working and why**
- **Consistency of software across College computers should be investigated**
- **Clarity on use of email and Moodle should be part of generic induction for all students**

## **BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

### **LEADING AND LEARNING**

<b>Board Member:</b> <b>David Peace</b>
<b>Programme Area</b> <b>Business</b>
<b>Date of Visit:</b> <b>7 December 2017</b>
<b>Summary of activities undertaken during visit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Met with Business Faculty “team”</b></li><li>• <b>Discussed staffing and student issues</b></li></ul>
<b>Positive Impressions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Staff very motivated to help students attain</b></li><li>• <b>Team communicate daily and work together to solve issues</b></li><li>• <b>Staff open to change but would like to be consulted</b></li><li>• <b>Staff believe that Borders College is excellent at what it does and should promote itself more as a “caring” facility (do other colleges do as much to support students?)</b></li><li>• <b>Team are dedicated, working over and above the stated weekly hours in preparing their course material and marking etc</b></li></ul>
<b>Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Staff worried that they are being ignored (specifically in relation to distance learning and streaming unprepared students into courses for which they are not able). Example given was of 2 Care Aware students who left after only ½ day, one of whom had done the same thing previously on a different course.</b></li><li>• <b>Concerned that student retention is being put above the impact that disruptive or low attendance students have on remainder of classes. Some students know that they are given warnings and final chances and then another chance so play up to it. Achievement Coaches are doing great job but they have no power to recommend a change if student on too hard a course.</b></li><li>• <b>Staff feel a bit marginalised as the faculty has fallen in terms of courses and student numbers and that they have an uncertain future. They are</b></li></ul>

starting to feel that they are merely responding to instructions rather than being consulted and involved, particularly in relation to timetabling and having time to research and forward plan courses.

**Further information required or requested:**

- Would it be possible to look at some form of online assessment at the Taster Days to allow staff to at least have forewarning of student ability rather than be confronted with students who require intensive support when the course starts? Current Core Skills Profile is said to be not fit for purpose
- Would it be possible to reinstate an Introductory level course to help bridge the ability level issue?
- Possibility of working with bus companies to see if busses could coincide with train times at Gala and then use this as an extra marketing tool to attract Lothians students
- One lecturer goes to Eyemouth to teach 5 students, understanding is that this same course is also going to be offered to Peebles and Earlston. Would sensible thing not be to run course at Earlston, as roughly midway between others, with others travelling there. This would minimise lecturers travel and maximise student attendance.
- Better clarity in marketing material of exactly what each course includes might help alleviate issue of students not being able for the course which they apply to.

## **BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

### **LEADING AND LEARNING**

<b>Board Member:</b> Jane Martin
<b>Programme Area</b> Health and Social Care
<b>Date of Visit:</b> 9/6/17
<b>Summary of activities undertaken during visit:</b> Interviews for social care students assessed for SVQ (9/6/17) Prior to interviews, Lisa Angus and Aileen Graham (SBC lecturers) met with Andrew Nimmo (Skills Development Scotland) and me on 30 <sup>th</sup> May to prepare for the day. On the same day (30 <sup>th</sup> May) I attended the student's end of year presentation where each group presented their project work and received awards.
<b>Positive Impressions:</b> Both lecturers prepared their 29 students for the interviews well and thoughtfully. Students took the assessment seriously and had clearly prepared themselves beforehand for the interview. They also received feedback on their performance. The interviewers received clear guidance on what questions to ask and how to conduct the interviews within the SVQ guidelines.
The students and staff were very appreciative of having an outside interviewer to help in the assessment and I would recommend that where appropriate, other board members could offer their services to their designated faculty.
<b>Further information required or requested:</b>  None identified

## **BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD**

### **LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT**

<b>Board Member: Tony Jakimciw</b>
<b>Faculty: Land based industries</b>
<b>Date of Visit: 29/11/17</b>
<b>Summary of activities undertaken during visit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Met with Andrew Johnson and viewed new field based activities for Animal care</b></li><li>• <b>Discussed declining numbers in horse care and whether this is a trend</b></li><li>• <b>Discussed problems in attendance experienced by animal care students coming by train. Frequent cancellations affecting attendance and motivation</b></li><li>• <b>Discussed role of attendance coaches and potential overlap with academic tutors. Early days but important to ensure good communication and coordination</b></li><li>• <b>Discussed relocation of horse care students to Gala campus base. Students feeling isolated in unfamiliar surroundings. Agreed that this might be an embedding issue</b></li></ul>
<b>Positive Impressions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Good numbers for agriculture with increased interest from farmers for work placements</b></li><li>• <b>Development of adjacent field with Animal Care facilities is working well.</b></li><li>• <b>Early retention has slightly improved</b></li><li>• <b>New reception area working well</b></li></ul>
<b>Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Still issues with computers at Riddell – poor internet access and smart board needed. Students have requested a lunch area.</b></li><li>• <b>Possibility that, as part of Borderlands, management could explore recruitment of animal care students from Northumberland.</b></li><li>• <b>Slow progress on incorporating flexible on line and open learning packages e.g. into horse care and animal care. Possibility of acquiring these from North Highland College</b></li></ul>
<b>Further information required or requested:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Andrew will be contacting other centres delivering horse care to find out if declining numbers is a national trend.</b></li><li>• </li></ul>