

CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT REPORT

Subject: Courses for Concern and Praise; Early Withdrawal 2017-18	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by: H Anderson	Date: 24 January 2018
Purpose: To inform the Curriculum and Quality Committee of any courses for concern	
Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.	
Executive Summary: To inform the Curriculum & Quality Committee of the Early Withdrawal rates of full time courses for academic year 2017-18. The report provides a comparison to the sector average and the college targets. A summary of the actions identified to improve the Early Withdrawal figures are also included Courses for Praise are those courses who have improved withdrawals significantly compared to the previous year.	
Recommendation: For the committee to discuss.	
Previous Committee Approvals:	
For publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For publication with redactions <input type="checkbox"/>
Not for publication <input type="checkbox"/>	

COURSES FOR CONCERN AND PRAISE – EARLY WITHDRAWAL 2017-18

DEFINITION OF EARLY WITHDRAWAL

$$\frac{\text{Number of students withdrawn prior to student funding point} \times 100}{\text{Number of students who enrolled on the course}}$$

ACTUAL COMPARISON AT 23 JANUARY 2017

Early Withdrawal	Actual % EW 2016-17	Actual % EW 2017-18	% Change	Sector Average % EW 2015-16	2017-18 Variance from Sector Average	Target % EW 2017-18	Variance from target
FEFT	7.2	7.1	0.1	9.0	1.9	7.0	-0.1
No EW	70 students	69 students	1 less withdrew				
No Enrolled	979	972					
HEFT	4.5	2.9	1.6	4.6	1.7	4.0	1.1
No EW	10 students	7 students	3 less withdrew				
No Enrolled	223	241					

The table above shows the College Early Withdrawal Figure has reduced significantly for Higher Education Full Time (HEFT) by 1.6% and reduced slightly for Further Education Full Time (FEFT) by 0.1%. The college continues to compare very favourably against the sector average for FEFT which is 1.9% better than the sector and 1.7% better than the sector for HEFT. HE is 1.1% above our target and FE is only 0.1% less than the target for 2017-18.

I have included the actual numbers who enrolled and the number who withdrew early within the table. These indicate that 1 less FE student and 3 less HE students left early compared to the previous year.

The table below shows the comparison by Faculty of 2016-17 to 2017-18.

FACULTY	TYPE	2016-17 EW	No of Students	2017-18 EW	No of Students	%+ change 16-17 to 17-18	Change in no of students
CAF	FEFT	6.2	14	9.1	21	2.9	7 more
	HEFT	3.7	2	1.6	1	-2.1	1 less
CEL	FEFT	7.2	30	6.2	29	-1.0	1 less
	HEFT	0	0	6.2	2	6.2	2 more
CIS	FEFT	7.7	26	7.0	19	-0.7	7 less
	HEFT	5.8	8	2.7	4	-3.1	4 less
			82		76		Overall 4 less left early

There has been a significant improvement in the Early Withdrawal rate for FEFT within both Creative Industry, Sport and Business faculty (CIS) and Construction, Engineering and Land based Faculty (CEL). Care and Access Faculty (CAF) and CIS have significantly reduced the withdrawal rate from HE FT courses. The HEFT rate looks high within CEL but that is due to 2 students withdrawing early from the HNC Gamekeeping and Wildlife course.

Detailed analysis of FE level courses within CAF has identified one course with significant early withdrawal rates. During 2016-17 the faculty delivered only one National 4 Care group and no students withdrew early. This year, the faculty increased the recruitment of students from 20 to 46 which enabled two groups to be timetabled. One group has had significant student issues which resulted in 6 of the students leaving early despite interventions by the Achievement Coach and Course Tutor.

Through discussions with the Head of Faculty, it has been decided to introduce a new course to replace one of the National 4 Care groups with a more appropriate level of course for that cohort. It will be called Passport to Care and will include 3 core skills at SCQF level 3 and 4, essential skills unit at SCQF level 3, Work Experience at SCQF Level 3, Customer Care Level 4. Delivery will change from 2 blocks of 18 weeks to 3 blocks of 12 which will enable the students to progress and will enable them to achieve shorter term goals. It will be project based around the Care sector and will enable them to develop through experiential learning.

The reason for withdrawal can be seen in the table below:

Withdrawal Reason			Total Number 2016/17		Total Number 2017/18	Difference on the previous year
Entering Employment			27		15	-12
Returning to School			2			-2
Dissatisfied with Course			3		1	-2
Personal Domestic	Relationship		23	3	32	9
	Mental Health	8		11		
	Pregnancy	1				
	Poor Physical Health	3		7		
	Children Issues	2		2		
	Other Carer Support Issues	3		1		
	Work Related	3		3		
	Housing	3		4		
				1		
Finance – inadequate			3		2	0
Withdrawn by College for poor attendance			18		21	3
Withdrawn by College for poor achievement			1		2	1
Transfer to another college			1			-1
Unknown			2		3	1
			80		76	-4

The figures indicate that 9 more students than last year had personal/domestic issues compared to the previous year. The majority of this increase was due to either poor physical health or mental health issues. There was a significant reduction in the number of students leaving for employment and no students decided to return to school.

ACTION 1

Those courses identified as a Course for Concern last academic year are being continually monitored and additional support provided to the Programme Leader to ensure students are attending and progressing within their course.

ACTION 2

The new role of Achievement Coach is being monitored with any required adjustments being carried out when identified. There are still a few areas who are not identifying students at risk due to the attendance. The CEL faculty will ensure the process of referring poor attendance to the Achievement Coach is carried out at an earlier stage. The Achievement Coach will also take a more targeted approach in future.

ACTION 3

The National 4 Care course will reduce from 2 groups to 1 group and a new course design will replace this group. The course is called Passport to Care and will contain core and essential skills units together with work experience and project based learning.

ACTION 4

Following the decision in mid October by Scottish Borders Council to redirect Pnumbra from all young people to school pupils only, the service provided to college students for mental health support was discontinued. It has taken a few months to establish an alternative but this is limited and other providers have no spare capacity.

The Student Welfare Team have also secured the services of New Horizons – this is a local charity who facilitates peer support groups to help with mental health issues. They are piloting weekly drop in sessions in College with details of wider community support that is available. We will continue to monitor the success or otherwise of this approach.

In addition, the Student Association is developing a student mental health agreement which includes the Wellbeing and Smash the Stigma events.

ACTION 5

The Student Welfare Team have created a Facebook page to provide students easy access to the service <https://www.facebook.com/jen.mackenzie.52> and have created a fun video to promote the type of support available to students: <https://www.powtoon.com/m/dWmdlc2s8r6/1/m>

COURSES FOR PRAISE

The table in Appendix B highlights a number of courses who have reduced the number of students withdrawing early compared to the previous year.

The most significant reductions were within Year 1 of Hairdressing, Preparation for Armed Services and Year 1 Painting & Decorating.

APPENDIX A Courses for Concern – Early Withdrawal 15% or greater

COURSE TITLE	Total Enrolled	No Early Withdraw	% EW	ACTIONS IDENTIFIED TO IMPROVE EARLY WITHDRAWAL
SVQ I Amenity Horticulture - FT	2	1	50.0%	Contact students faster who have attendance issues or showing signs that may cause concern
SVQ II Landscaping - FT	9	3	33.3%	Contact students faster who have attendance issues or showing signs that may cause concern
HNC Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management - FT	8	2	25.0%	At Interview stage highlight the importance of early application use college support services
Construction - Introduction to Brickwork - FT	5	1	20.0%	At Interview stage highlight the importance of early application use college support services
SVQ 1 Landscaping - FT	5	1	20.0%	Contact students faster who have attendance issues or showing signs that may cause concern
NQ Business Administration Level 5 - FT	22	4	18.2%	Programme review has identified that a range of NPA could be offered rather than Level 5 group award of 12 credits. This hopefully will motivate students with a full NPA achieved after 12-18 weeks with a small awards ceremony held to celebrate success. In November a range of employer inspirational days will be held.
NVQ I Beauty Therapy - FT	17	3	17.6%	A new City & Guild certificate is being investigated. The certificate is made up of 5 smaller awards. It is hoped students will achieve one award by October holiday and success celebrated by short course eg. Nails, inspirational event will be held in November.
National 4 Care A - FT	46	8	17.4%	Continue with action plan with input from Achievement Coach. Redesign course to even out assessed subjects in block 2. Target for learner success has been set at 70%
Construction - Introduction to Plumbing - FT	20	3	15.0%	Late starts have been problematic - earlier interviewing to try and ensure all students start at the same time. Staff meetings to identify potential risk students earlier, use attendance contracts/AC to allow closer monitoring/support of identified risk students
NC Electrical Engineering (Level 6) - FT	20	3	15.0%	Staff meetings to identify potential risk students earlier, use attendance contracts/AC to allow closer monitoring/support of identified risk students

APPENDIX B Courses identified for Praise

COURSE TITLE	Reduction in No EW	Change in EW %
NVQ I Hairdressing – FT	-4	-13%
NC Preparation for the Armed Services – FT	-3	-30%
National Progression Award in Construction - Painting and Decorating - FT	-3	-20%
SVQ III Brickwork - CITB BR1	-2	-18%
HNC Interactive Media – FT	-2	-17%
C and G Level 1 Certificate in Carpentry and Joinery – FT	-2	-15%
NVQ III Beauty Therapy – FT	-2	-13%
NC Agriculture – FT	-2	-11%
SCQF Level 6 Sport and Exercise	-2	-9%
HND Business - FT YR1	-2	-8%