

CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject: Learning for Leading	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Prepared by: James Ayling	Date: 14 May 2019	
Purpose: To provide the Committee with a summary of Board members' visits to their linked programme areas.		
Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.		
Executive Summary: The updated table of allocated linked areas is attached for information. Copies of the following visits are also attached: Sport and Outdoor Activities on 26 February 2019 (D Peace) Care and Access on 28 February 2019 (E Acaster) ISLT on 28 February 2019 (T Jakimciw) Business, Events and Heritage Tourism on 17 April 2019 (D Johnson)		
Recommendation: None		
Previous Committee Approvals: 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	Not for publication 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

LEADING AND LEARNING

Board Member: David Peace
Programme Area Sport and Outdoor Activities
Date of Visit: 26 February 2019
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with Curriculum & Learning Manager, Darren Burns, staff (Nikki Walker, Linsey Cooney, Karl Lamont and Colin Thomson) and students (Gregor Nixon, faculty Student Rep, Ryan Toogood and Andrew Mackay)• Enjoyed a wide ranging discussion of issues
Positive Impressions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff and Students very keen to maximise their course outcomes and good working relationships between both• Communications generally very good between staff and between staff and students. There had been some disruption in the changeover of timetabling to online, but these have been resolved• Staff believe that the courses are very good and all agreed that there is great flexibility allowing the high performers to continue to compete without detrimentally impacting on their studies• Staff and students very keen to promote the excellent achievements of the faculty which they believe is currently under sold• Team are focussed on improving what they do• Students impressively open and erudite in voicing their views and contributing which demonstrates the good working relationship between staff and students.
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff are keen to see a reintroduction of a Level 5 course as a rational step for those who are not ready for Level 6 or 7. There is a feeling that some students are being missed and others who are not capable of Level 6 are being dragged into a course that is not right for them• The staff and students are all very keen for the undoubted achievements of students (and staff) to be promoted more. The

suggestion is for at least a board or wall where International caps, race or tournament wins, etc can be displayed

- Students feel that all students at the college should be more aware of the opportunities to take part in sport, socially, intra-course and/or faculty and ultimately, inter-college. Staff struggle to find the time to coordinate this, but all are agreed that the social, emotional, mental health and general health benefits are huge.
- Students still unhappy about the IT at College. Reported that it can take 15 minutes to boot up and log in in some classrooms which means that actual course time is curtailed. The Library was agreed to have the best boot up times.
- Staff requested, if possible, that they be allocated use of a block of set classrooms rather than roaming around. This will allow greater teaching efficiency as appropriate teaching materials could be stored there rather than lugged around from place to place; appropriate diagrams etc displayed on walls creating a more focussed learning environment and students would know exactly where “their” courses were based creating a sense of ownership.
- Guest lecturers were felt to be an underutilised tool and staff asked for more help in arranging as they were well received by students and had proved to be very effective in reinforcing learning
- Off-campus visits to appropriate places were agreed to be a very useful tool but staff struggle to find the time to arrange as many visits as they would like. Suggestion is that students are tasked to do this (supervised of course) as part of their event-management module. Could this be supported?
- Staff unhappy about losing the small gym as there is a time issue in getting to and from Tri-Fitness and there have been several instances where, despite the premises being virtually empty of users, students have been denied access to use of Tri-Fitness by their staff. What are the parameters of use agreed between college and Tri-Fitness?

Further information required or requested:

- I believe that some of the requests, notably the higher profile display of achievements, better support for all students to take part in sport (with great associated benefits) and agreeing to students organising suitable off-campus visits as part of their event management module would be relatively easy to accomplish and would be very well received by staff and students alike
- I completely understand the request for a home base of classrooms and do believe that it would have learning benefits although I am aware of the pressure on available teaching space. Would it be possible though to identify classrooms that could be where the bulk of sports & outdoor activity course lectures take place and allow them to “personalise” these classrooms, but obviously have the rooms available for use by others too.

- The comments around Tri-Fitness not allowing students access is concerning. Obviously there will be an agreement covering use and there is probably a financial impact to be accounted for, but if students are being turned away, I do not find that acceptable and there must be something that could be done to help resolve the situation.

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: Elaine Acaster
Faculty: Care and Access
Date of Visit: 28th February 2019
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarisation meeting with Joan Cairney• Information on courses and staffing levels• Information on recent and proposed initiatives• Noted wide range of programme levels and needs/ambitions of students at different levels (Schools Academy to HNC/HND and possible short courses for P6 pupils under consideration)
Positive Impressions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enthusiastic staff team, working across programmes• Success of Project Search at Borders General Hospital• Responsive to development opportunities e.g. for Nursery practitioners• Sensitivity to needs of <u>all</u> learners
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None identified
Further information required or requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self assessment report• Agreed to visit to meet students

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: Tony Jakimciw
Faculty: ISLT
Date of Visit: 28/02/19
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I met with Scott Moncrieff to discuss progress and developments since the last meeting• We discussed the recently developed action plan• We considered the estates plans and visited the locations of the proposed expansion of ISLT base and relocation of the help desk to the library• Discussed progress in relation to the colleges ambition for developing and using on line learning material
Positive Impressions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott has made good progress in getting to grips with the challenges facing the college and identifying plans to address these in a more holistic way• The introduction of a template for Moodle has helped to make this a more structured experience for learners• Work is underway to improve the reports from UnitE for users and already showing improvements• The relocation of the help desk to the library should improve the service to learners and users• A developer is in place but only on a short term contract
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Action plan currently reads like more of a wish and needs to be prioritised with the focus on on-line delivery to learners

- To achieve the colleges ambitions the college will need to employ at least one full time developer
- The current arrangements for enabling and encouraging the development of on line material and embedding this in a comprehensive and accessible learning network might benefit from further review and enhancement to ensure the maximum support is available to lecturers and that the end result is coherent for users.
- Clarity is required regarding what is meant by 30% of learning material on line i.e. does it refer to the quantum of all material on line or the % of courses capable of on line delivery

Further information required or requested:

- Scott will provide Tony with an updated action plan when this is available
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BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING

Board Member: Dr David Johnson
Linked Area: Business, Events, and Heritage Tourism
Date of Visit: 17 th April 2019
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion and tour of Area with Joanne George – Curriculum Learning Manager• Tour of classroom:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ HND Business – FT Year 1• Tour of the restaurant and kitchen:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Various levels• Conversations with Area faculty and students
Positive Impressions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This was my second Learning for Leading visit. Again, I was especially impressed with the Area's activities.• I had a very positive and useful discussion with Joanne George. Since my last visit, some of the outdated Enterprise and Business Units have been updated in order to align with both student and regional needs. At the same time, progress is being made with online delivery, which is great to see. In particular, Area staff have been preparing online material and are working closely with Sam Anderson – Learning and Teaching Digital Facilitator.• There appears to be a strong sense of enterprise embedded within the Area, which is being extended into other Areas of the College. I find this very encouraging. For example, Enterprise and Business Units are being rolled out to Beauty Therapy and Sports. In addition, the Area is looking to recruit an Enterprise Specialist. This appointment may be part-funded by SOSEP and the Specialist is likely to split their time between Borders College and Dumfries and Galloway College.• Good progress is being made with the Scottish Borders Tourism Academy, which is due to launch in the near future.• Joanne has been working on streamlining student timetabling across all courses, as well as updates/amendments to current curriculum. This enhanced efficiency has

enabled a reduction in supply staff hours and has enabled some slack for staff to develop online materials.

- Joanne shared some examples of the material that is available on Moodle for the various courses within the Area. The availability of materials is particularly strong for Business courses but has some room for improvement for Hospitality courses (see below).
- The Area is launching a Foundation Apprenticeship in Accounting. This will be delivered solely online. Currently, there are currently 9 applications.
- During my visit, I was fortunate to observe some of the Area's teaching activities. Again, the classroom observations highlight a very positive learning environment, which is great to see. I am always extremely impressed with the Restaurant and Kitchen students. On my visit, they were preparing lunch for 30 covers!
- An External Verification visit had taken place not long before my visit and Joanne confirmed that the report received was very positive.

Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:

- There have been some difficulties in scheduling regular meetings, where all Area Lecturers are present, due to the fact that all Lecturers are fractional staff. For the new academic year, Joanne has built these Area staff meetings into the timetable to enable all staff to be present at the same time.
- The availability of Moodle material for Hospitality courses requires further development. Part of the issue is due to City and Guilds material being used alongside material within Moodle. Joanne is looking at incorporating the City and Guilds material into Moodle to enhance the student experience.
- Whilst Joanne appears to be doing a great job in communicating this to Area staff, there appears to be some confusion amongst Area staff regarding the specifics of 'Development Time,' i.e. whether this is time for upgrading existing course materials vs. time to develop new course materials.

Further information required or requested:

None.