

A SUMMARY OF COLLEGE STRATEGIES

Summaries of significant strategies which are implicit in the achievement of the Board's Strategic Aims:

Curriculum Development Strategy

The College is committed to developing a range of provision to meet the identified needs of client groups. In order to ensure this the College will:

- Maintain an appropriate range of choice of subjects within its service area
- Base curriculum development on systematic analysis of market intelligence
- Undertake costing exercises to ensure that provision is financially viable and delivered in the most cost-effective way
- Ensure there are appropriate entry level courses and appropriate progression routes wherever possible
- Promote flexible access to learning, including appropriate use of electronic delivery methods, to increase participation and reduce costs
- Ensure that teaching approaches and materials do not create unnecessary barriers to learning
- Ensure the curriculum is developed in line with key Government policy initiatives.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The College is committed to providing high quality learning experiences for students, appropriate to their needs and aspirations. The strategy outlines the basic commitments and expectations of the College with regard to how programmes are delivered. The main elements of the strategy are to:

- Ensure the course development and review process is effective in maintaining a coherent portfolio of high quality provision
- Ensure appropriate methodologies are adopted to meet the needs of individuals and groups
- Provide appropriate learning materials and resources for all types of provision
- Utilise relevant technologies to support effective learning
- Ensure staff are trained and supported in relevant methodologies and skills to provide high quality teaching and support for students.

Retention, Achievement and Attainment Strategy

The College is committed to delivering programmes that meet the needs of stakeholders (the learner, Government, local communities, employers and others) using methods that promote accessibility and flexibility and lead to high levels of retention, achievement and attainment. The main elements of the strategy are to establish and implement even more effective arrangements relating to:

- Programme design, planning and promotion
- Learning and teaching processes, contexts and planning
- Guidance and support for learners
- Attendance and retention management
- Essential skills and distance travelled
- Staff development programmes to support the learning and teaching process
- Monitoring and review.

Assessment Strategy

The College recognises that assessment is an integral part of effective learning which identifies the student's starting point, monitors progress, identifies areas for further development, records attained skills and knowledge, and measures the 'distance travelled' towards achieving broader generic skill-sets.

The College's strategy is designed to ensure that assessment in the College is carried out in a systematic way, in line with external and internal quality requirements, and that it is objective and consistent, while making reasonable adjustments to accommodate those with additional needs.

The strategy also establishes the College's commitment to an overall approach to the use of online assessment methodologies, which are of increasing importance in the College's work.

Dissemination of Good Practice in the Curriculum Strategy

The College is committed to providing the highest standard of learning and teaching opportunities for all students. In doing so, all teaching staff are expected to demonstrate good and innovative practice in the curriculum. The main elements of the strategy are to:

- Ensure that all staff can recognise and implement good practice
- Ensure staff understand the benefits of sharing good practice with colleagues
- Assist staff with the identification and dissemination of good practice
- Facilitate good practice dissemination events for all staff
- Measure the extent to which the benefits of good practice dissemination are having a positive impact on the student experience
- Undertake classroom observation to ensure that good practice is implemented in accordance with the needs of individual learners
- Ensure staff members take responsibility for embedding good practice in the learning and teaching experience
- Ensure that technology is utilised fully to disseminate good and innovative practice across the curriculum.

Essential Skills for Learning, Life and Work: Core and Soft Skills Strategy

The College recognises the importance of not only developing vocationally-specific knowledge and skills, but also in enabling students to develop essential skills for learning, life and work that form the basis of Curriculum for Excellence. These skills have been defined as Core and Soft Skills.

The strategy ensures that Core Skills are contextualised and incorporated within all full-time programmes and on part-time programmes where appropriate. Students' Soft Skills will be developed through combinations of learning experiences set in the daily life of the College, discrete areas of the curriculum, cross-curricular experiences and activities involving links with local, national and international partners.

Learner Engagement Strategy

Learner engagement is embedded in the culture, practices, processes and procedures of Aberdeen College. The strategy identifies the range of involvement opportunities available to students and potential students that can impact upon, influence and enrich their overall College experience, and defines the College's commitment to:

- Recognise existing opportunities for learners to engage
- Recognise the role of Aberdeen College Students' Association in learner engagement
- Identify potential future opportunities for learner engagement
- Demonstrate how the collective impact of the range of opportunities for learner engagement can be measured.

Enterprise in Education Strategy

The strategy sets out the College's approach to enterprise in education and aims to:

- Recognise the work already done through Determined to Succeed that will be carried on through a "Curriculum for Excellence", applying these principles to a wider range of learners within the College
- Recognise the wide range of enterprise in education initiatives that already exist in the College, setting these in a framework that allows them a greater focus and celebration of their success
- Recognise the importance of enterprise in education as one of the key drivers to future economic success
- Prepare learners to be innovative in their approach to enterprise
- Prepare learners to be enterprising in their approach to the world of work.

Inclusiveness Strategy

This strategy outlines the College's comprehensive anticipatory approach to meeting the needs of students, including those who may encounter barriers to learning in whatever form. In setting out this approach it is intended to foster amongst College students an appreciation of the differences

between individuals as set out in the nine protected characteristics together with the notion of supporting each other, regardless of these differences through College life.

Business Continuity Strategy

The College has developed a Business Continuity Strategy to ensure that it is well equipped to deal with any occurrences that could disrupt its normal activities and able to return to full working in the shortest possible time.

Estates Development Strategy

The Board of Management has adopted an Estates Development Strategy that details how the College will continue with its programme of aligning its estate to the emerging needs of students and curriculum delivery requirements.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The College is committed to environmental sustainability, where the needs of the present do not comprise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and is committed to the dual ethos of sustainability and responsible global citizenship. To promote and develop environmental sustainability, the College will:

- Use both the curriculum and CPD to promote knowledge, attitudes and skills that enable individuals to make informed decisions relating to the impact of their actions on the environment
- Act in ways that promote a sustainable world environment through reducing, reusing and recycling wherever possible, and implementing safe and ethical disposal procedures
- Develop and share good practice in order to influence society in a positive way, seek to engage creatively and diversely, and promote opportunity for all
- Recognise that the minimum acceptable level of environmental performance is that stipulated in environmental legislation
- Set clear environmental aims, actions and targets and monitor progress.

Learning Resources Strategy

The College uses a wide range of learning resources to support students' learning, including paper-based materials and electronic media. In some cases, these are managed centrally, for example, in College libraries, and in others by College Sectors. The purpose of this strategy is to provide a coherent and consistent approach to the development and deployment of these resources in such a way as most effectively to meet the needs of a range of student groups.

Information Technology Strategy

The College is committed to the integration of ICT and ILT into both its courses and its management and administration processes. Significant aspects of the strategy are to:

- Encourage innovative use and enhancement of IT in both learning and teaching, and business processes
- Increase flexibility and responsiveness to learner needs
- Widen access throughout the College's service area
- Prepare learners with the ICT skills required for successful involvement in education, work, leisure, community and active citizenship
- Establish, where appropriate, effective and integrated information systems
- Move, where appropriate, from paper-based to electronic information and record systems.

Human Resources Strategy

The Colleges' Human Resources Strategy aims to ensure that the planned activities of the College can be sustained in ways that promote effectiveness and higher quality while remaining within affordable limits.

The strategy is designed to support the College achieve its objectives in the short and medium term and provide a positive learning experience for students and an effective service to all customers. It seeks to address College employment patterns, and the deployment and development of its human resources.

Marketing Strategy

The strategy ensures that communication with individuals, the community, industry and other organisations is effective to maximise education and training opportunities. The main elements of the strategy are to:

- Promote services and facilities to potential students
- Conduct market research and evaluate marketing campaigns
- Manage and develop further the College's brand and identity, including its online presence
- Provide PR, communications and support College activities and events
- Ensure all College buildings are 'legible' and accessible and promote a positive atmosphere and environment.

European Strategy

The strategy aims to enable the College to secure funding from European Lifelong Learning Programmes and other sources, to:

- Enable staff and students to experience a European dimension through study visits and exchanges, project work and staff training courses
- Enhance internal policies, procedures and processes with good practice gained from European partners.