

## “SFC: One – plus provision”



### Summary for Development Committee

South Lanarkshire College’s Full-time (FT) programmes are a combination of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) programmes.

FEFT programmes are predominantly 18 credits in length (18 x 40 hours). HEFT programmes are predominantly 15 credits in length (15 x 40 hours).

If a FE programme has more than 18 credits or a HE programme has more than 15 credits it is defined by SFC as “one plus”. The SFC aim is to prevent students from, for example, undertaking two full-time courses or a full-time and a part-time course in the same year. If a college’s “one-plus” activity is above 1% there has to be engagement with the Outcome Agreement Manager for approval. The College’s activity is planned at around 5% and this engagement with the SFC Outcome Agreement Manager has taken place.

Courses at South Lanarkshire College are tailored specifically for employment and progression as outcomes and the college is in the top third in Scotland in terms of students going straight into employment on completion of their full-time programme (SFC September 2016 publication). Our aim is to enable students to achieve to the best of their ability and have a positive destination at the end of their course.

The college delivers a range of “one-plus provision”. The reason is to:

- *meet the requirements of CITB, SNIPeF and other employer-led training boards and bodies. They define the training requirements for their workforces in course framework documents.*
- *meet the requirements of SWAP. The requirements for University entry are set out in course framework documents.*
- *meet the requirements of City and Guilds for specific craft-based programmes. The requirements of these employer-led qualifications are set out in framework documents.*
- *meet the requirements of universities/registration bodies. Specific work-place activity and required subjects are set out in framework documents.*
- *meet the requirements of other awarding bodies. Awarding bodies such as BPEC set out a specific number of hours training, for example to enable a gas fitter to be proficient as part of the Gas Safe training.*
- *ensure winter-leavers have appropriate progression routes.*
- *deliver Scottish Government initiatives such as the current Dental Hygiene strategy for people employed in nurseries.*

Overall arrangements are in place to ensure students are successful either in getting or maintaining a work placement and/or getting and maintaining a job at the end of their programme

The College is working through a phased reduction of “one-plus” programmes where appropriate and has reduced from 8% in 2015-16 to 5% for 2016-17, but is unlikely to reduce much further. In one Faculty, there will be no “one-plus” programmes in 2016-17. In two Faculties there will be “one-plus” programmes for the above reasons.

SFC data, published September 2016 (CLD leaver destinations 2014-15), demonstrate that South Lanarkshire College has one of the highest rates of students progressing to a positive destination at 91.7% (Scottish average: 82.6%; Scottish range: 67.2% - 93.8%) and is also well above sector average at 24% in terms of students going straight into a job at the end of their course (Scottish average: 16.2%; Scottish range: 6.7% - 40.8%).

In addition, SFC data also demonstrate strong attainment rates achieved by learners from South Lanarkshire College. The College's attainment for FEFT provision, which is the bulk of its students, (46% by enrolment and 52% by activity) rose by 3 percentage points from 68% in 2013-14 to 71% in 2014-15 against a national trend of FEFT attainment falling by 2 percentage points.

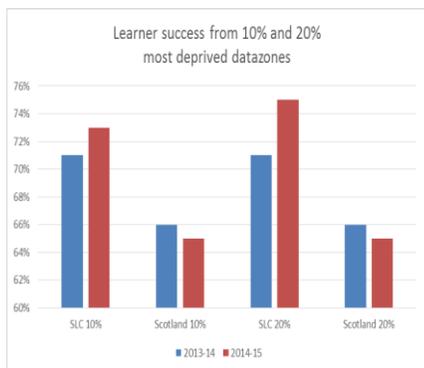
The College's attainment for HEFT provision, which is the second largest category of students, (26% by enrolment and 18% by activity) rose by 1 percentage point from 75% in 2013-14 to 76% in 2014-15 against a national marginal drop in HEFT attainment.

The proportion of students successfully attaining their programme multiplied by the proportion going straight into a positive destination, provide a useful metric that could be used to demonstrate overall success.

It is important to consider that it is often those learners who have little or no qualifications from school who require additional education, training and support to get them prepared, for progression to employment or to a more advanced qualification. For example, if a pupil undertakes a winter-leavers programme, completing at Christmas it is important that there are options for them to progress to. It is likely that this would lead to them individually ending up in the "one-plus" category.

It is also important to note that the College's attainment rates are well above sector average for learners from both the most deprived 10% and the most deprived 20% SIMD areas and these attainment rates have risen, despite a nationwide fall in attainment for these learners. Please see the graphs below. In 2013-14 the College's attainment rate for learners from the 10% most deprived SIMD areas was 5% above the sector average. In 2014-15 the College's attainment rates for these learners was 8% above the sector average. In

2013-14 the College's attainment rate for learners from the 20% most deprived SIMD areas was also 5% above the sector average and in 2014-15 the College's attainment rates for these learners was 10% above the sector average.



**Graph demonstrating South Lanarkshire College's attainment rates for learners from the most disadvantaged areas.** Data source: SFC January 2016. **In addition, the college's attainment rate rose between 2013-14 and 2014-15.**

**This was in contrast to a national downward trend for learners from the most disadvantaged areas.**

A further pertinent point is that South Lanarkshire College delivers credits at a much lower SFC-funded price-per-credit than most other colleges in the sector and well below the sector average (source SFC). Despite this it also operates a "break-even" budget.

In summary, the College delivers high levels of outcomes for learners at a low cost per credit. It has reduced the proportion of "one-plus" programmes from last year. The remaining "one-plus" activity is to meet clearly-defined requirements. Discussions have taken place with the Outcome Agreement Manager as required and the rationale for all "one-plus" provision has been shared. The College is awaiting confirmation from SFC.