
Performance and Resources Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 7 June 2023
Paper Title	Outcome Agreement 2022-23: Progress Update
Agenda Item	6
Paper Number	PRC5-C
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1** The Glasgow Region Outcome Agreement 2022-2023 was completed with the cooperation of the Glasgow region colleges, approved by committee and board, and submitted to Scottish Funding Council (SFC) by deadline.
- 1.2** SFC have provided feedback on the Outcome Agreement, welcoming its overall approach, effective balancing of national strategies and policies aligned to regional priorities.
- 1.3** In line with government priority, SFC have requested additional information be added to commentary on the Glasgow colleges' current position in relation to implementing the Fair Work First¹ directive. This has been added and accepted by SFC.
- 1.4** The updated version of the Outcome Agreement 22-23 will be uploaded to BoardEffect and is shared with committee. It is worth noting that the updated data for 2021-22 was received in February 2023.
- 1.5** In the meantime, guidance on the Outcome Agreement 23-24 has now been published as confirmed in the following committee paper, with a deadline of September 2023. It should be noted that this remains out of normal cycles, and is also expected to be the final year of the current format.
- 1.6** An update on delivery of the Outcome Agreement 22-23 is provided in the report below.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1** Committee is invited to **note** this update on the delivery of the Outcome Agreement 22-23.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-support-implementation/#:~:text=Fair%20Work%20First%3A%20the%20approach%20and%20what%20it,sector%2C%20where%20it%20is%20relevant%20to%20do%20so.>

3. Background

- 3.1** In its current format, the Outcome Agreement provides a region-wide overview of core priorities, maintains oversight of Key Performance Indicators, and assurance and reporting regarding the investment in college education in the Glasgow region.
- 3.2** Since the pandemic, we have been operating with a reduced set of core measures and high-level accountabilities, and these remain in place for the 2022-23 academic session.

4. Report

- 4.1** This report provides a high-level overview of the current position of delivery in the Glasgow region against the initial targets set in the Glasgow Region Outcome Agreement 2022-23.
- 4.2** In terms of overarching total Credits target, the Glasgow region remains on track to deliver within the tolerance level set out by Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in 2022-23 guidance. The regional target of 381,624 is currently projected at 376,563 (1.33% below target, a slight shift from 1.2% below target at the previous report).
- 4.3** The Core Credit target of 374,664 is projected at 372,942 (0.45% below target).
- 4.4** Overall, this confirms that the Glasgow college system continues to deliver education opportunities at a broad range of SCQF levels, across multiple qualification types, to provide significant education opportunities right across our physical estate and online, maintaining a significant position of delivering over one fifth of all of Scotland's college education.
- 4.5** However, as per the previous report of overall progress, Foundation Apprenticeship delivery continues to be challenging. We were able to safeguard and maintain a level of FA opportunity across Glasgow, both during and in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, but there continues to be knock-on impact. Changes in funding and reporting model, challenges in transport and ensuring post-pandemic access to workplace experiences have all led to this being a continued difficult time for FA delivery. In this transition period between moving from SDS to SFC funding, we were directed to focus on the creation of 'opportunities' to access FAs. This led to a regional offer of 6960 Credits, currently projected to translate into deliver of around 3621 Credits. This is a slight increase in FA provision from the previous report of progress. We have already provided feedback to SFC on the challenges of this particular product and are working collaboratively with the Glasgow colleges to carefully examine our approach while the offer continues to be challenging. Initial discussion with the colleges suggests an appetite to gradually build back up the regional offering, and new opportunities are being explored directly with SFC, but this remains a clear risk area.
- 4.6** On the high-level core list of delivery in key areas there is evidence of the Glasgow college system continuing to have a positive impact.
- 4.7** The volume of Credits delivered to learners in the lowest 10% SIMD is projected to be 104,111, up from 101,374 against a target of 101,000, accounting for 27.6% of Credit activity.

4.8 Likewise, activity delivered to care-experienced learners is up to 27,283, an increase from 25,809 at the last report against a target of 21,000. The overall trend is upwards, though this is likely to be in part down to increased disclosure. The number of senior-phase age school pupils studying vocational qualification at college remains impacted post-pandemic, and is projected at 989, down slightly against a target of 1285.

5. Risk and Compliance Analysis

5.1 Delivery of the core targets of the region against the Outcome Agreement is a key element of providing assurance and monitoring activity of the region.

6. Financial and Resource Analysis

6.1 Monitoring of the delivery of the Glasgow college region against target is a core element of managing the finances and resources of the region.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 The restricted reporting Key Performance Indicators provide assurance around the delivery of education for particular identified groups of learners.

8. Learner Implications

8.1 The Glasgow Region Outcome Agreement 2022-23 set out high-level priority areas for the effective delivery of college education for learners and their communities. This interim report provides in-year assurance on high-level delivery patterns.

Forecast Outturn at 21 May 2023	Regional target	Regional projected	Projected variance from target	City of Glasgow College		Glasgow Clyde College		Glasgow Kelvin College	
				College target	College projected	College target	College projected	College target	College projected
The volume of credits delivered									
Total credits	381,624	376,563	(5,061)	175,333	173,716	126,357	125,307	79,934	77,540
Core credits	374,664	372,942	(1,722)	173,013	172,401	124,037	124,216	77,614	76,325
Foundation Apprenticeship credits	6,960	3,621	(3,339)	2,320	1,315	2,320	1,091	2,320	1,215
Volume of credits delivered to learners in the lowest 10% SIMD 2020	101,000	104,111	3,111	40,000	39,988	36,000	36,588	25,000	27,535
<i>Percentage of credits delivered to learners in the lowest 10% SIMD 2020</i>	26.5%	27.6%	3.1%	22.8%	23.0%	28.5%	29.2%	31.3%	35.5%
Volume of credits delivered to care experienced students	21,000	27,283	6,283	7,000	9,192	9,000	10,585	5,000	7,506
<i>Percentage of credits delivered to care experienced students</i>	5.5%	7.2%	29.9%	4.0%	5.3%	7.1%	8.4%	6.3%	9.7%
Number of senior phase age pupils studying vocational qualifications at college	1,285	989	(296)	450	467	525	351	310	171