

To: Learning, Teaching and Engagement committee

Date: 23 February 2018

Status: For information

Agenda item 18.1.10 - Curriculum review and planning – initial paper

This paper provides an overview of initial discussions regarding curriculum review and planning for 2018/19 and beyond, which was tabled at a Senior Management Team meeting on 29th January 2018.

Taking into account patterns of student recruitment, KPIs for full time courses and a knowledge of current teaching staff, the following comments were made against each broad curriculum area.

The next step is more detailed planning including agreement on which courses are delivered in which centres, current and additional requirements for staffing and any other resources and involving HR to assist with any potential redundancies or staff recruitment.

Areas in **green** text are suggested developments; areas in **red** text are requiring review or are suggestions for ceasing provision.

Childcare HN and NC networked across centres. VQ numbers reducing but still viable in most areas – need to monitor applications/recruitment and delivery method of SVQs. Increase in SVQ 4 and part time SVQ 2/3 students this year. Childcare sector is an area of growth within Argyll and with new legislative requirements re qualification staff employed in this sector must hold, this should be a growth area for the college. Increased engagement needed with local authority, CPP and local childcare businesses.

Health and Social Care Student numbers high – all work-based, all employed and assessed in workplace. An additional assessor required to deal with the on-going demand. There is also an **opportunity to develop and deliver SVQ 4**. As with Childcare this is a growth area for the college given the legislative requirements for staff employed within the industry to be trained to certain levels, depending on their job role. A small number of H&SC SVQ2 have been included in the MA bid to assess whether the MA route will work.

Nursing – Access to Degree There will be an opportunity in the next 2-3 years for people in Argyll to locally access the UHI Nursing degree. An Access to Nursing course would facilitate a progression route to the degree. Proposal is NC to HNC to degree progression. This requires the right person (whom we think we already employ) and time to develop, which means an initial cost before we could enrol students and receive recurrent funding. Discussions with local health service required to ensure any developments meet the needs of local hospitals. There may be existing courses developed across the UHI partnership that we could adopt or adapt. Also important that UHI subject network leader is fully on board and supportive of our intentions.

PGDE - primary and secondary Continues to be demand with a high number of applicants. Third year of delivery of PGDE primary, first year for secondary route. Currently only offered in 1 location – Oban – but the programme leader has agreed we can **offer in another Argyll location**. Suggesting possibly Dunoon or Helensburgh.

Social Science NC-HNC Social Sciences is a recognised route to a number of other programmes, particularly for people who are unsure in which area they wish to specialise. There is an opportunity to **develop network growth** in the delivery of the programmes. Social sciences courses are relatively new to the college and need time to settle and become established. There is a good team of teaching staff building in this area.

Business and Admin From 2018/19 progression route from HNC Business will not be **HND**, but year 2 of degree – will result in reduced teaching hours for our tutors. HNC/D AIT will continue. **NC Admin and Business** will be replaced by an **Access course**, presuming the SFT course due to start in Jan/Feb goes well, allowing students to progress from the access course to either the Business or Admin& IT route.

Computing and IT All courses are networked and will continue as current although teams will be reviewing the content of the courses on an on-going basis to ensure continued relevance to jobs in this sector.

Art FT course at SCQF 5 and 6 only available in Lochgilphead and only second year of delivery. **HNC will be delivered from 2018/19** This area needs time to settle and become established. Potential for delivery of part time evening/weekend/summer course in specific aspects. Move some of the ‘dirty’ art areas to CERC should there be space?

Horticulture NC, HNC, HND networked across a number of Argyll centres – consolidate and establish. Likely to deliver HNC to Orkney from 2018/9 and existing delivery of HNC/D to Dundee and Angus College. Also early discussion with Moray College. Delivery of SVQ2 to Mount Stuart, Rothesay – 3MAs and 4 existing staff. Mount Stuart very keen to work with college/UHI to **progress development of degree**.

Agriculture NC, HNC, HND delivered in Campbeltown. Discussions with **Orkney College on offering HNC/D as progression** from existing SVQ provision and joint teaching across both areas. Possibly from 2018/19

Music **Sound Production NC, HNC and HND will cease** due to small cohorts for the last few years – possibly too specialist to maintain recruitment each year. Existing staff are scoping feasibility of delivering **NC/HNC Music**, with specialism in traditional music, to Oban High pupils – this was an area the headteacher indicated he would like to develop in conjunction with the college. Oban area (as well as other parts of Argyll) well resourced for musicians of traditional Scottish music. Each year a number of OHS pupils enrol on HNC Music with LCC and some will enrol with WHC for 2018/19. Possibly also offer in Helensburgh in the future in collaboration with The Tower.

Catering /Hospitality Will be completely reviewed – student numbers low with very little uptake in HNC/D level. This sector is hugely significant to the Argyll economy, therefore we would expect significant student applications. Review will include course content, course level, delivery mode and timings to try to align the curriculum to the needs of the local employers and

people working or hoping to work in the industry. Possible commercial agreement with Portavadie to train up to 16 staff at SVQ 2/3. Possible staff training in new hotel in Islay. Review will also consider part time evening/weekend/summer courses specialising in specific areas, CPD for existing staff or people new to cooking who want to learn the basics. Will also assess the continued viability of the staff catering facility in Oban centre, Small number of MAs in SDS contract for this year with numbers included in bid for next year.

Special programmes Second year of delivery of full time course in Oban centre. There has been enhanced engagement with local resource centres in a number of areas. This area continues to expand and needs a period of time to become an established part of our curriculum. Good teaching team being built up across the college area.

Hairdressing/Beauty Hairdressing curriculum needs reviewed. Student numbers are dropping each year. Concern about teaching staff in post who are delivering FT courses. Are we offering the right courses in the right way – are MAs a better way to deliver hairdressing SVQs. We have purpose designed salons in Oban and Dunoon. Is this an opportunity to look at multipurpose or repurpose of facilities to change provision to Beauty for a number of years or offer both courses in same premises with better timetabling? Need discussion on what stage the move to new premises in Dunoon is at and whether to progress that or not. SfW Hairdressing is popular so why are school pupils not progressing to SVQ level?

Sport / Outdoors NC and HNC delivered in a number of centres – some units are networked, other practical units delivered at each centre. Low student applications of concern but courses need time to become established. There will be a regular review of student application and recruitment.

Construction SVQ Carpentry and Joinery only delivered at CERC via a contract with CITB, who contract with SDS through the MA programme. To date student recruitment was been good and if that is maintained this course will continue. NPA will only be delivered in Rothesay – no-where else due to very low recruitment in last few years. Need to review where SfW is delivered – if **no NPA in Campbeltown** should we stop SfW provision – student do not progress from SfW to NPA, but there is regular demand for SfW – since we would need to maintain the workshop only for SfW classes once a week.

Engineering **PEO** - will be reviewed due to very low recruitment in last few years. We also offer engineering Foundation Apprenticeships to a number of schools, which incorporates the PEO qualification. FA students bused to CERC for some teaching. Difficulty in recruiting high quality teaching staff in engineering across all centres. Discussion needed on future of Engineering FA. If cease engineering provision, discussion needed on workshop at CERC and alternative uses for this space.

Discussion needed on the construction/engineering units in Dunoon – linked to curriculum review.

Science HNC Applied Science offers a good mix of science areas to allow students to progress and specialise. Second year of delivery in Oban, uses lab facilities at SAMS. Very low numbers in first year but higher student numbers this year. Course needs time to become established and viewed as an option for pupils leaving OHS wishing to study Science. Discussions needed with SAMS on progression from HNC to second year Marine Science degree – currently students can only progress to year 1 of degree. Possibly need to include more marine science based units in HNC.

Maritime Area of growth for the college. STCW course is a priority for 2018, for commercial and SFT delivery. Intention to look to increase SFT to 30 weeks. An annual RYA and STCW calendar of delivery being developed with marketing dept and possibly a separate Web trail area for commercial. Other developments longer term - RYA practical, SVQ2 Boatbuilding & Repair, MA Boatbuilding Workboat, Marine Engineering, Traditional boatbuilding. Much of this development could be linked to the Oban as a University Town project. Further engagement needed with local employers to ensure courses offered meet their needs.

Aquaculture Area of growth for the college. Very small SVQ2 MA numbers included in bid for next year to test demand and start the engagement with local employers. Good local contacts already but teaching team will need to expand and develop. SfW Aquaculture delivered in Oban this year. NPA will be revisited to determine fitness for purpose and demand. Engagement with local employers will be key to informing the development of this area. Will require development time and money before any students are enrolled.

Tourism The Argyll economy relies heavily on income from tourism and as such you would expect a course in tourism related areas to be popular and beneficial to local businesses. Development time required to determine what, if any, suitable course in tourism should be offered in the college.

Brewery / Distilling Following work by the DYW Officers in Islay there is potential for courses in brewing/distilling, possibly NPA Brewing, Tour guiding. Time is required to research this area and scope possible provision that the college could offer.

Forestry Is this an area for development for the college – more work needs done to determine whether this is an area of opportunity. Links with Forestry Commission need established.