

**GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE****Academic Board - 01 September 2023****SFC Guidance to Colleges and Universities on Quality AY 2022-23 and AY 2023-24: Refresh****Report by Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement****1. Introduction**

The attached quality guidance update was published by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The document sets out SFC's refreshed expectations on quality enhancement approaches and activity for both colleges and universities over 2023-24, with a particular focus on the shift to a single quality system for the tertiary sector.

**2. SFC Guidance to Quality**

SFC are now providing joint guidance on quality enhancement to both colleges and universities. Although the detailed arrangements outlined for each sector are different, the joint guidance is significant as it illustrates the SFC ambition to have a single quality assurance and enhancement framework for tertiary education quality.

This refreshed guidance builds on the single set of guidance provided last year for the tertiary sector by enhancing the shared elements across both colleges and universities. This includes:

- An increased emphasis for both Colleges and Universities to ensure their student partnership models feed into their quality enhancement activity;
- SFC's expectations that both sectors engage with the design and delivery of a new joint approach to external review to be developed over 2023-24; and
- Updated guidance for colleges and universities on reporting on quality for in 2023-24, including a requirement that institutions complete a Self-evaluation and Action Plan (SEAP) for submission to SFC and the quality agency by the 30 November 2024. The SFC guidance states that the specific detail of these reports and an associated template is under development but that they are likely to include a summary of institutional quality assurance and enhancement activities, an evaluation of key data and evidence, and a strategic action plan identifying areas for improvement and enhancement.

Out with the above, whilst the ambition for a single set of arrangements is highlighted in the document, the specific arrangements for colleges do not suggest many significant changes from those which have operated in recent years. Colleges will still have to align their processes to the *How Good is Our College* framework and work with Education Scotland in providing assurance on quality enhancement and learner engagement effectiveness.

Looking forwards to 2024-25 onwards, the guidance reports that the SFC has commissioned Quality Assurance Agency (working closely with Education Scotland) to lead on the development of a multi-year quality cycle involving peer-led external review

of colleges and universities, and the development of effective ways of designing and delivering impactful enhancement activity across the tertiary system. Colleges and universities will be expected to proactively engage with this work to help shape how external review and tertiary enhancement are delivered within the new tertiary quality arrangements from 2024/25. These new arrangements will be outlined in the SFC Guidance to colleges and universities on quality published in 2024.

### **3. Impact on Students**

National quality arrangements are intended to drive and support improvements to the student experience and outcomes.

### **4. Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

### **5. Equalities**

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

### **6. Risk and Assurance**

The College is required as a condition of funding to follow SFC guidance on quality.

### **7. Data Protection**

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

### **8. Environmental and Sustainability**

There are no Environmental and Sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

### **9. Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- i. note the contents of the report and the attached SFC guidance.

### **10. Further Information**

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Robin Ashton, Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement.

Glasgow Kelvin College  
RA  
28/08/2023