Item 11
For Discussion and Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning and Teaching Committee 26 - February 2025

Student Outcomes Review and Improvement Targets

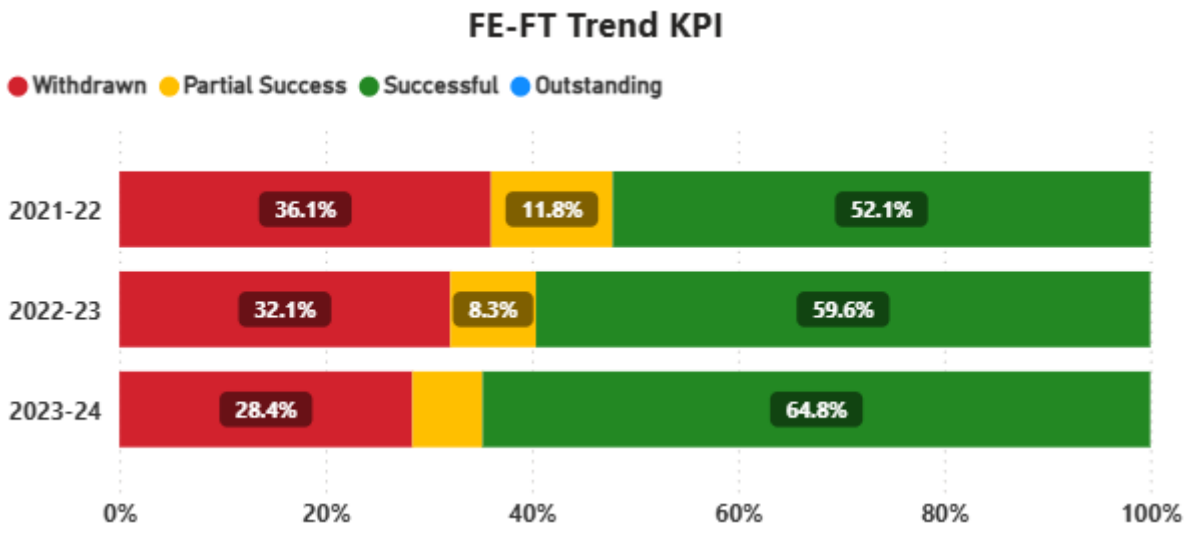
Report by Vice Principal Curriculum

1. Introduction

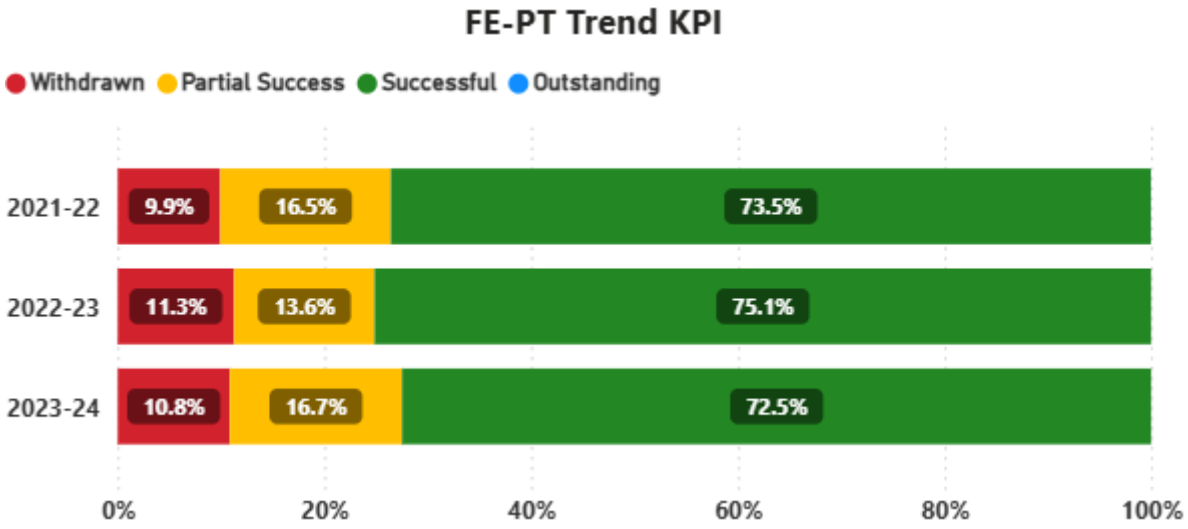
Due to industrial action and the impact of a resulting boycott, the completion of College courses and submission of results was extended into the current academic year. We have now completed and submitted all results for 2024-25 and therefore can review final student outcomes and consider improvement targets for future years.

2. Review of 2023-24 Student Outcomes

In terms of full-time Further Education courses, improved retention, aligned to a lower partial success level, has supported an overall improvement in student outcome rates of 5.2 percentage points compared to 2022-23 and 12.7 percentage points in total since 2021-22 as shown in the chart below.

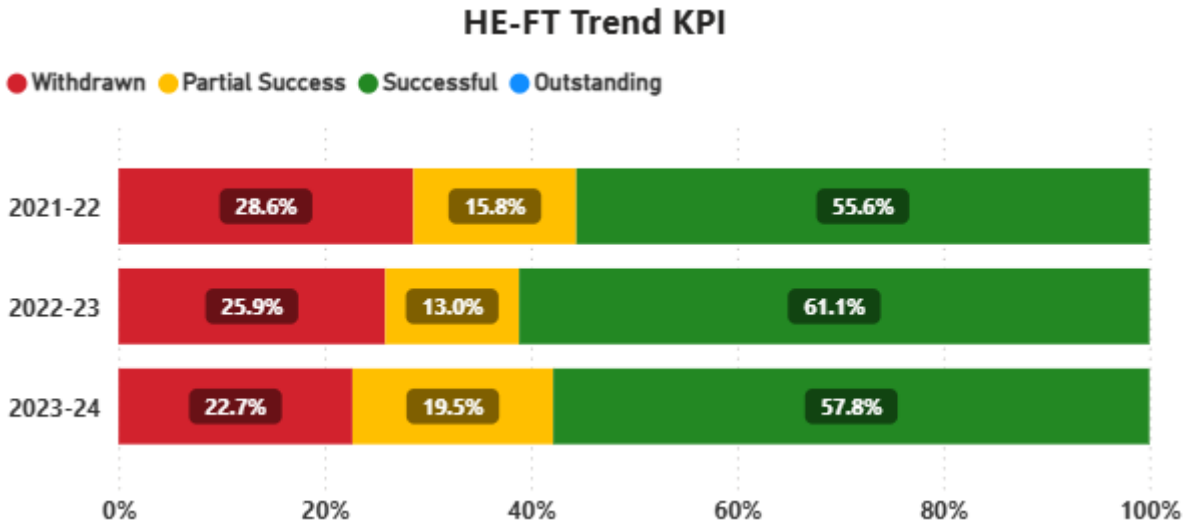


For part-time Further Education courses, retention has improved for 2022-23 but partial success has worsened and therefore overall success rates for 2023-24 show a reduction from the previous academic year as highlighted below.

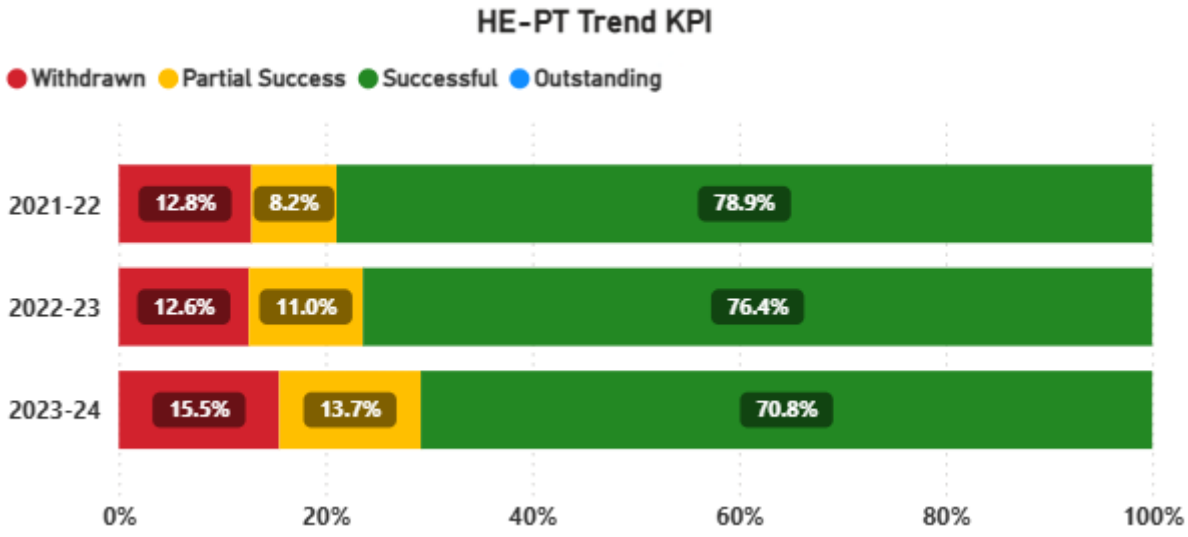


In terms of the increase in partial success rates, as a significant volume of our part-time activity runs as courses from January to June, this would have been disproportionately impacted by strike action and this would have reduced the likelihood of courses being successfully completed.

For Higher Education levels courses, whilst retention for full-time courses has improved, partial success has increased significantly by 6.5 percentage points compared to 2022-23. Again, this is directly attributable to industrial action, with a large volume of Higher National students progressing successfully to university despite not completing their College qualification. Had this not been the case, with the improved retention rates, we would have expected success rates to be improved on 2022-23 levels.



Finally, in terms of part-time Higher Education courses, for 2023-24 there was an increase in both withdrawal levels and partial success, which led to a reduction in overall success rates of 5.6 percentage points. As this category of provision of curriculum relates to a small proportion of College delivery (circa 6%), it can be strongly influenced by course specific issues. However, given the significant reduction in success rates, this area will form a priority for quality enhancement activity for the year ahead.



In summary, whilst there are areas of reduced performance, much of this was due to the impact of industrial action and overall retention levels suggest a broadly improving picture. Therefore, as we continue to progress our student outcome improvement actions, and with industrial action less likely, we would expect the improving trend to continue.

3. Refresh of 2024-25 – 2027-28 Student Outcome Targets

Based on the above review of 2023-24 student outcome rates and considering national indicators, the following refreshed Student Outcome Targets for 2024-25 – 2027-28 are proposed.

Mode/Level	2023-24 (actual)	2024-25 (refreshed)	2025-26 (new)	2026-27 (new)	2027-28 (new)
Full-Time Further Education	64.8%	66.0%	67.0%	68.0%	69.0%
Part-Time Further Education	72.5%	73.5%	75.0%	77.5%	79.0%
Full-Time Higher Education	57.8%*	66.0%	69.0%	71.0%	73.0%
Part-Time Higher Education	70.8%	72.0%	73.5%	75.0%	76.5%

* Without the impact of industrial action, underlying retention levels suggest we could have achieved a student outcome rate of circa 63%.

These take account of the impact of Covid and industrial action on recent outcome rates, with an ambition to move the College into achieving above national average levels for Further Education modes, and at least national average level for Higher Education courses.

4. Impact on Students

This report highlights some positive improvements the College has achieved in student success rates. However, for some modes and levels, the College continues to perform below national average levels and improving student success rates therefore remains a key quality enhancement priority for the College.

5. Resource Implications

No resource implications are identified as a result of this report.

6. Equalities Implications

No equalities implications are identified as a result of this report. However, it should be noted that within the College's new quality enhancement arrangements, all subject areas now undertake a review of student outcomes disaggregated for the main equalities groupings. This evaluation identifies areas for improvement which are then progressed through Faculty operational planning activities.

7. Risk and Assurance

This report provides assurance that despite the operational disruption caused by industrial action, the underlying factors which support student success (high retention and low partial success) are improving.

8. Data Protection

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

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

i. consider and discuss the 2024-25 student outcome performance data;
ii. endorse the proposed 2024-25 to 2027-28 outcome improvement targets.

10. Further Information

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

Glasgow Kelvin College
RA
04/02/2025