

Item: 5

College Management Council Sub-committee: 19 March 2018.

Further Education Performance Indicators.

Report by Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To present the Scottish Funding Council College Performance Indicators for academic year 2016 to 2017 and the position of Orkney College UHI relative to these.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

College Performance Indicators in relation to further education for academic year 2016 to 2017, published by the Scottish Funding Council in February 2018 which indicate the following:

2.1.1.

Overall, 78.7% of Orkney College students on full-time courses completed successfully compared with 65.3% in Scotland as a whole, which is an improvement of 4.4% on 2015 to 2016.

2.1.2.

The overall attainment rate for Orkney College students studying on part-time programmes was 95% compared with 77.1% for Scotland as a whole.

3. Policy Aspects

The performance information presented in this report support the undernoted Council value:

- Working to Provide Better Services.

4. Background

4.1.

The Scottish Funding Council has published performance indicators on college tertiary activity for the past 15 years. The purpose of the indicators has been to inform stakeholders on the performance of the sector, and to help colleges evaluate their performance.

4.2.

As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, all the higher education work of Orkney College is reported through the university and falls under the quality requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency and is not included within the performance indicators prepared by the Scottish Funding Council. Elsewhere in Scotland, further education colleges undertake higher education activity that is reviewed by Education Scotland and is reported in the performance indicators of the Scottish Funding Council. A consequence of this is that, while the Scotland wide data covers further education and higher education, the data specific to Orkney College just covers further education.

5. Performance Indicators for 2016 to 2017

5.1.

The Scottish Funding Council has published the Performance Indicator reports for 2016 to 2017 in a similar format to previous years. In the interests of transparency and better informing the public, colleges are required to publish their performance indicator information on the college website. The Orkney College Performance Indicator data can be found at the following link:

<http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk/students/useful-information/fe-performance-indicators-2016-17> Full graphical representation of the performance indicators for Orkney College UHI and aggregated Scotland wide college data is given in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

5.2.

Overall, 78.7% of further education students at Orkney College on full-time courses completed successfully compared with 65.3% in Scotland as a whole. The attainment rate increased by 4.4% from the previous year, which was itself an improvement on the year before that. Withdrawal rates can fluctuate from year to year with the relatively small numbers involved. The UHI partnership as a whole attainment rate on full-time courses was 67.5%. Comparison with data from all the other colleges in Scotland indicates that the Orkney College UHI attainment rate of 78.7% for 2016 to 2017 was the highest rate in the country.

Figure 1_Orkney Full-time Student Attainment.

Year	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal	Total
11-12	81.6%	3.9%	14.5%	76
12-13	76.8%	3.7%	19.5%	82
13-14	72.7%	7.1%	20.2%	99
14-15	71.4%	3.9%	24.7%	77
15-16	74.3%	9.2%	16.5%	109
16-17	78.7%	7.4%	13.9%	122

Figure 1_Scotland Full-time Student Attainment.

Year		% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal	Total
11-12		63.5%	11.5%	25.0%	52,436
12-13		65.5%	11.3%	23.2%	50,496
13-14		65.9%	11.4%	22.8%	51,631
14-15		64.0%	10.6%	25.4%	50,924
15-16		65.5%	9.0%	25.5%	49,954
16-17		65.3%	9.6%	25.1%	50,086

5.3.

95.0% of students on part-time courses fully achieved their qualification. This compares with 77.1% nationally. Figure 2 provides a breakdown of student attainment by the length of course studied. Some lines in the table are blank as the Scottish Funding Council does not report subject areas where student numbers are particularly low and may be attributable to individual students. The attainment rate for students in the band of courses from 160 hours to 320 hours showed an improvement of 9% over 2015 to 2016. Attainment rates for students on courses of 40 to 80 hours duration appear low compared to previous years. However, there have been some changes to the lengths of programmes and this group includes students on employability courses for whom a positive destination was leaving the course before the end to take up employment. Course teams review student performance indicators on an annual basis and they have looked at any course where a significant number of students did not complete all modules.

Figure 2_Orkney Part-time Student Attainment.

Year		% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
14-15	under 10 hours 1,499	99.9%	0.1%	
	10 up to 40 hours 995	98.1%	1.8%	0.1%
	40 up to 80 hours 143	86.0%	6.3%	7.7%
	80 up to 160 hours 131	87.8%	8.4%	3.8%
	160 up to 320 hours 172	67.4%	23.8%	8.7%
	320 hours up to FT 70	85.7%	7.1%	7.1%
15-16	under 10 hours 1,459	99.8%	0.2%	
	10 up to 40 hours 824	97.2%	2.4%	0.4%
	40 up to 80 hours 112	84.8%	5.4%	9.8%
	80 up to 160 hours 68	70.6%	22.1%	7.4%
	160 up to 320 hours 157	60.5%	28.7%	10.8%
	320 hours up to FT			
16-17	under 10 hours 1,120	99.7%	0.3%	
	10 up to 40 hours 1,053	98.8%	1.1%	0.1%
	40 up to 80 hours 64	65.6%	1.6%	32.8%
	80 up to 160 hours			
	160 up to 320 hours 246	69.1%	19.5%	11.4%
	320 hours up to FT			

Figure 2_Scotland Part-time Student Attainment.

Year		% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
14-15	10 up to 40 hours 389	93.8%	4.9%	1.3%
	40 up to 80 hours 1,362	76.5%	13.7%	9.8%
	80 up to 160 hours 2,068	74.1%	19.2%	6.6%
	160 up to 320 hours 5,981	76.8%	14.5%	8.7%
	320 hours up to FT 2,357	84.1%	9.6%	6.2%
15-16	10 up to 40 hours			
	40 up to 80 hours 2,011	81.9%	12.3%	5.8%
	80 up to 160 hours 1,937	77.4%	15.3%	7.3%
	160 up to 320 hours 6,469	77.3%	11.9%	10.8%
	320 hours up to FT 1,873	82.7%	10.1%	7.2%
16-17	10 up to 40 hours 138	76.8%	18.8%	4.3%
	40 up to 80 hours 2,287	82.4%	12.2%	5.4%
	80 up to 160 hours 1,986	77.4%	15.3%	7.3%
	160 up to 320 hours 6,232	76.9%	13.3%	9.8%
	320 hours up to FT 1,930	80.8%	12.5%	6.7%

5.4.

Figure 3 shows courses of 160 hours or more and the position of students who did not fully achieve their qualification. With a small sample size it is important not to draw too many conclusions. However, the data shows that 35% of students in this group completed at least 75% of their planned units with a further 25% completing at least 50%.

Figure 3_Orkney Student Attainment – Partial Completion.

Number of students who complete their course without gaining any units / credits	8	16.3%
Number of students completing their course achieving up to 25% of planned units	2	4.1%
Number of students completing their course achieving 25 to 50% of planned units	10	20.4%
Number of students completing their course achieving 50 to 75% of planned units	12	24.5%
Number of students completing their course achieving at least 75% of planned units	17	34.7%
	49	100%

Figure 3_Scotland Student Attainment – Partial Completion.

Number of students who complete their course without gaining any units / credits	2,437	21.1%
Number of students completing their course achieving up to 25% of planned units	998	8.7%
Number of students completing their course achieving 25 to 50% of planned units	2,178	18.9%
Number of students completing their course achieving 50 to 75% of planned units	2,984	25.9%
Number of students completing their course achieving at least 75% of planned units	2,940	25.5%
	11,537	100%

5.5.

Figure 4 shows a breakdown of attainment by age range. The attainment rates compare well with the Scotland average with attainment for students aged under 18, being 6.3% above the Scotland average. For the rest of Scotland, attainment rates tend to be higher for more mature students.

Figure 4_Orkney Student attainment on courses exceeding 160 hours by age.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
under 18 173	68.2%	22.0%	9.8%
18-20 year olds 67	74.6%	11.9%	13.4%
21-24 year olds			
25-40 year olds 70	72.9%	11.4%	15.7%
41 and Over 58	81.0%	6.9%	12.1%

Figure 4_Scotland Student attainment on courses exceeding 160 hours by age.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
under 18 31,775	61.9%	14.6%	23.5%
18-20 year olds 46,581	70.3%	11.9%	17.7%
21-24 year olds 20,101	71.5%	10.5%	18.0%
25-40 year olds 31,164	72.7%	10.1%	17.2%
41 and Over 10,880	74.1%	12.1%	13.8%

5.6.

Figure 5 shows a breakdown of attainment by curriculum area. However, this breakdown is less informative for Orkney College as the Scottish Funding Council only displays subject areas where there are at least fifty students. Below that level the Scottish Funding Council regards the information as having questionable value from a statistical point of view.

Figure 5_Orkney Attainment by Curriculum Area.

		% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
	Construction 58	69.0%	24.1%	6.9%
	Care 130	63.8%	22.3%	13.8%

Figure 5_Scotland Attainment by Curriculum Area.

		% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
	Nautical studies 440	89.3%	5.5%	5.2%
	Languages and ESOL 6,903	78.8%	5.8%	15.4%
	Engineering 13,275	75.4%	9.6%	15.0%
	Special Programmes 7,450	73.2%	10.7%	16.1%
	Land-based industries 2,811	73.2%	10.1%	16.7%
	Construction 9,802	73.2%	11.0%	15.8%
	Performing arts 1,469	67.9%	11.2%	20.9%
	Education and training 1,882	66.0%	10.1%	23.9%
	Hospitality and tourism 4,908	65.4%	10.3%	24.3%
	Business, Management and Administration 5,266	65.2%	16.4%	18.4%
	Computing and ICT 4,154	65.2%	13.9%	20.9%
	Art and design 3,214	64.8%	11.9%	23.4%
	Care 15,095	64.1%	16.4%	19.4%
	Sport and Leisure 3,374	63.2%	11.0%	25.8%
	Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies 8,238	62.5%	8.3%	29.3%
	Media 1,470	61.7%	14.8%	23.5%
	Science 3,963	56.1%	18.2%	25.7%
	Social subjects 4,752	54.4%	19.6%	26.0%

5.7.

National statistics show that attainment rates for male students (69.6%) are slightly higher than those of female students (66.3%). In Orkney the pattern is similar with the attainment of male students (74.7%) being higher than those of female students (71.9%). It would be dangerous to draw too many conclusions when the Orkney sample size is relatively small compared with national figures. 253 female students fell in to the category of 'over 160 hours' study, compared with 154 male students, which suggests that the College might need to do more to attract male students.

Figure 6_Orkney Student Attainment by Gender.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
FE Females 253	71.9%	14.6%	13.4%
FE Males 154	74.7%	16.2%	9.1%

Figure 6_Scotland Student Attainment by Gender.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
FE Females 49,809	66.3%	12.3%	21.4%
FE Males 48,576	69.6%	11.9%	18.4%

5.8.

The Scottish Funding Council provides performance indicators on achievement of students in what it defines as 'key student groups' such as students with disabilities, ethnic minority groups and those from deprived postcode areas. This data is presented in Figure 7 below. Orkney College's figures compare generally well with the overall Scotland figures in absolute terms but the sample sizes are statistically very small. Most categories for Orkney College are not published by the SFC as the sample sizes are very small. The largest grouping in this section was students with disabilities for whom the full attainment rate was 65.6% compared with 66.5% nationally. The sample size is, however, small, with each student representing 1% of the cohort.

Figure 7_Orkney Student Attainment by 'key student groups'.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
All enrolments over 160 hours 408	73.0%	15.2%	11.8%
10% Most deprived postcode areas			
20% Most deprived postcode areas			
Fees paid by employer			
Ethnic minority			
Disability 93	65.6%	18.3%	16.1%
Year of study greater than first year			
Care Experienced			

Figure 7_Scotland Student Attainment by 'key student groups'.

	% Completed Successful	% Partial Success	% Withdrawal
All enrolments over 160 hours 140,501	69.4%	11.9%	18.7%
10% Most deprived postcode areas 23,781	66.1%	11.7%	22.3%
20% Most deprived postcode areas 42,780	66.2%	11.8%	22.1%
Fees paid by employer 8,702	84.9%	9.0%	6.2%
Ethnic minority 10,281	71.3%	11.8%	16.9%
Disability 22,804	66.5%	12.3%	21.2%
Year of study greater than first year 17,656	80.9%	9.9%	9.2%
Care Experienced 2,096	57.2%	12.7%	30.1%

5.9.

Student activity in 2016 to 2017 (see Figure 8 below) was 0.8% above target, a small increase on 2015-16. College funded activity is capped by the Scottish Government, apart from some additional places supported by European funding. This European funding will be in place for one more year (2018 to 2019) but then will cease as a result of United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

Figure 8_Orkney Student activity as a percentage of funded target.

	Credits/WSUMs	Year	Percentage
WSUMs achieved	4,926		
14-15 WSUM target	5,109	14-15	96.42%
Credits achieved	3,914		
15-16 Credits target	3,922	15-16	99.80%
Credits achieved	4,044		
16-17 Credits target	4,012	16-17	100.80%

Figure 8_Scotland Student activity as a percentage of funded target.

	Credits/WSUMs	Year	Percentage
WSUMs achieved	2,315,272		
14-15 WSUM target	2,314,809	14-15	100.02%
Credits achieved	1,752,557		
15-16 Credits target	1,748,686	15-16	100.22%
Credits achieved	1,762,047		
16-17 Credits target	1,753,631	16-17	100.48%

5.10.

Figure 9 provides information on the percentage of full-time permanent staff with a teaching qualification. The percentage of staff with a teaching qualification has been consistent over the last three years at circa 94%, which is in keeping with the relatively small staff turnover and that there are typically one or two staff undertaking the Teaching Qualification in Further Education in any one year. The Orkney figure is approximately 5% above the national average.

Figure 9_ Orkney Percentage of full-time staff with a teaching qualification.

	Permanent full-time teaching staff	Number with a Teaching Qualification	Year	Percentage
14-15	19	18	14-15	94.7%
15-16	18	17	15-16	94.4%
16-17	17	16	16-17	94.1%

Figure 9_Scotland Percentage of full-time staff with a teaching qualification.

	Permanent full-time teaching staff	Number with a Teaching Qualification	Year	Percentage
14-15	3,732	3,277	14-15	87.8%
15-16	3,685	3,256	15-16	88.4%
16-17	3,601	3,200	16-17	88.9%

5.11.

In conclusion, the performance indicators overall portray a positive position of the College relative to Scotland as a whole. The main caveat is to warn of the statistical fluctuations that can occur when dealing with small sample sizes. This is particularly relevant to data at course level and subject level where numbers are low.

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating directly to the recommendations contained in this noting report.

7. Legal Aspects

Monitoring of the College's Performance Indicators helps the Council meet its statutory obligation to secure best value.

8. Contact Officers

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9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Orkney College Performance Indicators 2016-2017.

Appendix 2: Scotland Wide Performance Indicators 2016-2017.