



SFC allocates about £1.6bn in public funds to Scotland's 19 universities and 25 colleges each year for:



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West regional access event

Ayrshire College, Kilmarnock Campus

24 March 2017

Fiona Burns, SFC Assistant Director - Access



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Improving further and higher education

Our main activities are:

- **Developing and managing Outcome Agreements**
- **Progressing national priorities**
- **Supporting collaboration between colleges and universities**
- **Making payments to colleges and universities and other statutory functions**



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Purpose of day: 1

- To draw together views, opinions and expertise from regional areas to enhance our knowledge and strengthen our policies on access and related matters.
- Intention is to hold five regional events in 2017: North-East, West, Highlands & Islands, Central and South-East.
- National access conference will be held on Tuesday 20 June 2017 at Perth Concert Hall.



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Purpose of day: 2

- **Delegates are asked to:**
 - Consider the regional impact of the national policies.
 - Discuss the work of SFC and access to education – not only the current policies and how they operate, but also suggest potential changes to improve them or highlight areas where our policies don't yet reach.
 - Share regional contacts with SFC for future engagement.
 - Complete the online evaluation form that will be circulated after the event.



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Strategic direction on access to the SFC

- Scottish Government – [Ministerial letter of guidance](#)
- Implementing recommendations from the [Commission on Widening Access final report: A Blueprint for Fairness](#)
- Progressing Scottish Government's [Youth Employment Strategy \(YES\)](#)
- [SFC Access and Inclusion Committee](#)



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Strategic direction on access from the SFC

- **Strategic Plan** – Outcome for high quality teaching and learning “We will have contributed to a more equal society because learning is accessible and diverse; attracting, and providing more equal opportunities for people of all ages, and from all communities and backgrounds in Scotland.”
- **Outcome Agreement Framework** – drives forward national and institutional ambitions in relation to access and equality and diversity
 - Age – Opportunities for All
 - Disability – Access and Inclusion Strategy / equality targets
 - Gender – Gender Action Plan
 - Socio-economic – Targets for intake and achievement, additional places
 - Care experience
 - Articulation – 10 year plan and additional places



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SFC's Access policies – our next priorities

- **Contextualised Admissions – impact on fair access**
- **Schools – national programme to deliver our access ambitions**
- **“At risk” groups**
- **Grow and expand articulation**
- **Develop our Gender Action Plan – staffing including career progression, Boards/Court, transgender and violence against women**
- **Actions from a triennial review**
 - **Intersectionality – outcomes by age and socio-economic**
 - **College sector – promote good practice in early interventions through a detailed understanding of the reasons for withdrawal rates**
 - **Use data to promote and understand the learner journey**



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Enabling and support diversity

Equality

- Outcome Agreements require Equality Impact Assessments
- Enables demonstrate of actions undertaken from PSED requirements
- National measures demonstrate our commitment to equality
- Includes consideration of protected characteristics and Care Experienced students and Carers

Vulnerable/At risk Groups

- Developing policy support for “at risk” groups including estranged students, community justice, young carers, transgender, kinship care, veterans and students from military families, refugees, and those with a mental health issue.
- Will look at:
 - how these groups access, participate, stay-on and progress in further and higher education
 - what data needs to be gathered



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Targeted funding

Access and Inclusion Fund

- 2015-16: Review of Extended Learning Support (ELS) concludes funds would be better used by colleges to support inclusive practices.
- 2017-18 College Outcome Agreements asked college regions to develop a strategy that would evidence use and impact of the funds.

Widening Access and Retention Fund

- 2011-12: Regional Coherence fund created a £19M fund to support the delivery of coherent provision through articulation, with improved retention and flexible modes of study.
- 2014-15: Funding reviewed, embedded in the OA process, and renamed the Widening Access and Retention Fund to ensure increased emphasis on purpose of fund.





Moving into discussion groups:

- A – Open Space lecture theatre (Fiona Burns)**
- B – Partnership Centre (Anna Thomson)**
- C – Boardroom (Linda McLeod)**

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