

Learner Report 2012

A summary of the Review by Education Scotland
on Perth College UHI.

www.perth.uhi.ac.uk



Perth College UHI was reviewed by Education Scotland during week commencing 20 February 2012.

Education Scotland provides an independent evaluation of colleges and other education providers to review their activities and impacts on their learners. The Review Team included HM Inspectors, Associate Assessors from other colleges and a student team member. They met with students, staff, the Board of Management and employers, and observed learning and teaching across the college.



Confidence Statements

In the report it was stated that Education Scotland was confident:

- learners in Perth College UHI are progressing well and achieving relevant high quality outcomes;
- the college has in place high quality learning and teaching processes;
- learners are actively engaged in enhancing their own learning and the work and life of the college; and
- the college is led well and is enhancing the quality of its services for learners and other stakeholders.



Strengths

Main strengths highlighted in the report

Providing for our students, the local community and employers

“College programmes meet the needs of learners, the local community and employers well.”

“Within the last three years, there has been significant improvement in overall student attainment rates for FE programmes. Student attainment rates are now high.”

“Learners in all programmes demonstrate growing self-confidence and increased aspirations for their career development as their studies progress.”



Supporting our Students

“Leadership of services to support learners is very effective, with learners experiencing well-co-ordinated support both prior to and throughout their college experience.”

“The college has a clear, consistent and well-integrated approach to support and guidance for learners on full-time programmes.”

“There is a strong and effective quality culture across the college. Staff work well together and are responsive to the views of learners, which helps them to reflect constructively on the learning experience.”

Respecting our Students

“The college provides a welcoming environment for learners from widely different backgrounds. Learners are treated fairly and with respect.”

“High levels of respect and encouragement between learners and staff create a positive and supportive climate for learning throughout the college.”

“The college has a positive, welcoming and inclusive ethos.”

“The college communicates very clear messages in its public spaces about inclusion and zero tolerance of discrimination.”

Caring for Our Environment

“Recently, the college has successfully improved its estate by building high-specification accommodation for learners on the campus.”

“The college is on target in relation to implementation of its Carbon Management Plan. It is also employing a number of effective measures to monitor and reduce energy consumption.”

The one main point for action is to continue to develop our different approaches to teaching which ensure consistently high quality for all learners.

Particular examples of innovative or excellent practice were identified:

Sector Leading and Innovative Practice

Use of mobile technology to enhance learning.

HMI considered our Hairdressing team's use of mobile technologies to enhance learning to be an example of sector leading and innovative practice. Staff recognised that mobile smartphone technology is an ideal medium to use to engage students in their own learning. Students have responded very positively to this and are currently working with staff to identify further developments of the technology.

Excellent Practice

Partnership support for young people at risk of dropping out.

In this project, groups of learners with additional support needs have been involved in developing high level physical and personal skills through participation in football. This has had a clear and positive impact on the learners and most of them are now embracing a much more active lifestyle than before.

Excellent Practice

Football club for learners with additional support needs.

Youth Unlimited is a transitional support programme which aims to help young people who have dropped out of education. It helps these young people to gain the confidence and skills to take up opportunities in training, education or work. The project has been very successful and almost all young people involved have demonstrated increased motivation, confidence and social skills.



What Next?

The college is fully committed to further developing excellence in supporting its learners and ensuring success for all. We will continue to build on our strengths and plan for improvements, working with staff, students, employers and our local community.

The College and Student Association was very pleased that the work undertaken daily by staff and students to make Perth College UHI a great place to study was recognised in this report. The report give us confidence to continue to strive for excellence and put the students at the heart of all we do.