



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Perth College



2016 LEARNERS REPORT

A Summary of our
Education Scotland
Review

What is a Learners' Report and Key Messages

In November 2015, Perth College UHI was visited by reviewers from Education Scotland who evaluated the quality of learning and teaching of our Further Education courses, as part of our normal quality review process.

The external review team spoke with students, staff at all levels, employers and businesses and groups we work with and other College users to get a full account of the education experience provided at Perth College UHI.

Of the three levels of judgement which can be awarded after these reviews, Perth College UHI was granted the highest level – “Effective” and this Learners' Report will give you a short overview of what we have done to achieve this very positive report.

The full report can be found on Education Scotland's website: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/othersectors/collegereviews/PerthCollege.asp>

Summary of key points:

- The success rates in full-time FE (72%) remain significantly above the national sector performance level and have improved over a three-year period.
- Many FE programmes incorporate industry qualifications and a large number include work placement, industry visits, industry guest speakers or live projects.
- The professional and industry knowledge of staff is used well to ensure learning is delivered in a motivating and helpful way.
- The college's strong commitment to CPD for staff and the support they have to advance their professional or academic qualifications is highly valued.



Recognised Excellences

BRAG MONITORING PROCEDURE

Rates of learner attendance and progress are monitored using a colour coded heat map for each class group.

Green – no issues

Amber – cause for concern

Red – risk of withdrawal

Blue – withdrawn

Since the introduction of BRAG monitoring, student early retention and success has improved. Teaching staff find this procedure to be supportive and helpful, whilst the Student Services Team use it to help target learners who may require support in their learning.

GOLDEN TICKETS

Golden Tickets are used by the Sport, Fitness and Outdoor Activities Team to reward learners who have demonstrated particular progress or involvement.

Golden Tickets give the learner a reward such as a book, rucksack, industry specific course, or other appropriate items. Most of these rewards have been sponsored or donated by local employers.

All of these activities inspire learners to attend and make progress, to attain qualifications and to develop wider skills for employment.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

These initiatives present learners in the Hospitality curriculum with additional opportunities to increase their motivation and improve their attendance and success rates.

All learners are given the same opportunities and encouragement to participate in the full range of enhancement activities. Participation in a variety of in-house, local and national competitions motivates many learners to engage in their learning and to further develop their craft skills.

These approaches have resulted in an approximately 10% reduction in early withdrawals over a three year period

Strengths in Learner Progress and Outcomes

- Relationships between learners and teaching staff are positive and productive and all learners develop good levels of self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Rates of withdrawal for learners on full-time and part-time FE programmes have improved and are better than the national sector performance level.
- FE level programmes offer clear progression pathways to higher education either within the college, across the UHI network, or at other institutions. Levels of progression from further to higher education programmes are very high within the college.
- All learners feel well supported by staff and are confident about asking for clarification around things they do not understand.
- Staff have high expectations of learners. They support learners well to define clear targets and goals to achieve these expectations.
- Staff provide useful support to learners to help plan and prepare for progress to further study or seek employment.



Strengths in Learning and Teaching

- Learners are interested and motivated and engage well in activities aimed at developing their skills for learning, life and work.
- Learners and staff have strong and respectful relationships, and all learners value and benefit from the high levels of individual attention and support given to them by staff.
- Teaching staff prepare learners well for tests and exams using a range of approaches.
- Learners are given prompt and helpful feedback from their class work and assignments.
- Leadership for learning and teaching is clear and effective, underpinned by careful curriculum planning to ensure that the college and future FE curriculum is fit for purpose.
- Support and curriculum teams work well together to ensure that the support that learners receive is effective. Staff are motivated and teamwork is strong.
- Staff use learner feedback effectively to identify actions to improve programmes and services.



Strengths in the College

- College staff are highly motivated and have the learner experience at the heart of what they do.
- The college has a strong track record for its work on equality and diversity. Its Equalities Mainstreaming Report provides clear and comprehensive information about what is being done to ensure the delivery of five Equality Outcomes. Equality and diversity is promoted well and is highly visible in all college documentation.
- The quality culture in the college is strong. All staff have a clear commitment to improving the college experience for learners.
- Partnership working is extensive and effective. Staff work well with external partners to provide work experience opportunities for learners, incorporate presentations from visiting speakers and arrange industry visits.



Our Next Steps

Perth College UHI received four areas for development and two main points for action.

The two main points for action are:

- The college should continue to implement strategies to improve PIs on programmes where they are low.
- The college should continue to support action to ensure that the Students' Association develops and contributes effectively to the work and life of the college.

“We are working together to continue to make the student experience at Perth College UHI the most positive and rewarding we can.”

Margaret Munckton
Principal and Chief Executive

John Dare
Student Association President



