

**SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CREDIT AND ACCESS**

**17-10-06**  
**Item 3**  
**Paper 42-06**

**Proposal for continuation of Flexible Delivery 'Coordination Groups'**

**Introduction**

1. This paper contains a recommendation arising from one of the development projects commissioned under the Flexible Delivery enhancement theme, '*Supporting the development of the flexible curriculum: flexible entry and flexible programmes*'. The recommendation is that resources be identified to enable the continuation of two 'coordination groups' for flexible entry and flexible programmes respectively, which were established to support the work of the project in the first instance, with membership drawn from across the Scottish HE sector. The Project Team consider that these coordination groups could play a significant ongoing role in the mainstreaming of flexible entry and flexible programmes within HEIS, in supporting practitioners and in providing a forum to enable practitioners to both inform, and be informed by, wider developments at national and European levels.

**Recommendation**

2. SACCA members are asked to consider the attached paper, and in particular:
  - the issues raised in the context of mainstreaming flexible entry and flexible programmes within HEIs;
  - to consider the proposed role of the coordination groups in supporting practitioners, and as a forum for discussion of developments at national and European levels;
  - how the coordination groups might best be supported
  - how their continuation might be resourced.

**Further information**

3. For further information on the material covered in this paper please contact Thelma Barron.

## Proposal for continuation of Flexible Delivery 'Coordination Groups'

### Background.

1. One of six development projects commissioned by the Enhancement Theme Steering Committee for Flexible Delivery was '*Supporting the development of the flexible curriculum: flexible entry and flexible programmes.*'
2. The project team comprised:

Ruth Whittaker, SCQF RPL Consultant, Project Director and Flexible Entry: RPL Strand Coordinator

Hazel Knox, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Learning and Teaching, University of Paisley–Flexible Entry: Credit Transfer Strand Coordinator

Vince Mills, Director, Scottish Centre for Work-based Learning, Glasgow Caledonian University - Flexible Programmes Strand Coordinator

Paula Cleary, Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning, Glasgow Caledonian University, Project Development Officer

### Published Outcomes

3. Building on the development of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) national guidelines for credit transfer and RPL, the published outcomes from this project aim to:
  - promote the development and recognition of flexible approaches to learning
  - support flexible entry and flexible programmes through recognition of non-formal and informal learning and planned work-based learning
  - identify continuing professional development and other support needs of higher education practitioners who are developing and operating flexible entry and flexible programmes
  - provide appropriate support and staff development tools to facilitate implementation of the SCQF national guidelines in relation to operational management and curriculum design
  - provide exemplars of good practice in the operational management of RPL and credit transfer, including curriculum design.
4. Outcomes from this project have just been published and disseminated to the Scottish HE sector. These comprise, in hard copy, a project overview report, a review of flexible programme provision, and on CD-ROM, a flexible entry staff development pack: 'Recognising prior informal learning and credit transfer within the context of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework', and a Flexible Entry resource pack: Recognising prior informal learning and credit transfer within the context of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. All outputs are also available on the Enhancement Themes web-site.
5. **Need to sustain the momentum to develop a more flexible curriculum**

Flexible entry and flexible programmes are clearly located within strategies of widening access, participation and social inclusion, and are integral to the lifelong learning agenda within Scotland. To sustain the momentum for developing a more flexible curriculum, which has been generated through this

and other project work to support the Flexible Delivery Enhancement Theme and implementation of the SCQF, the project team has identified a number of key issues which need to be addressed. The project team proposes that these issues form part of a wider agenda for action for both the Enhancement Themes and the SCQF.

**Areas where ongoing support is required**

6. The issues in question centre on the need to support the mainstreaming of flexible entry and flexible programmes within HEIs. This requires:
  - Explicit resourcing of the provision at national and institutional levels
  - Recognition of diverse approaches to achieving and demonstrating learning within programme design
  - Training and support for staff developing and operating flexible entry processes and flexible programmes.

**Proposed role for Flexible Entry and Flexible Programmes Coordination Groups**

7. The project group considers that the Flexible Entry and Flexible Programmes Coordination Groups could play a significant role in supporting practitioners as the sector seeks to address these challenges. In addition, the groups could provide a forum enabling practitioners within institutions to both inform, and be informed by, developments at national and European levels.
8. Accordingly, Members of SACCA are invited to consider :
  - (i) the issues raised in the context of mainstreaming flexible entry and flexible programmes within HEIs;
  - (ii) the proposed role of the coordination groups in supporting practitioners, and as a forum for discussion of developments at national and European levels;
  - (iii) how the coordination groups might best be supported;
  - (iv) how their continuation might be resourced.

## **Appendix A: Flexible Entry Coordination Group**

### **Founding members**

Ted Finch	Napier University
Colin Fraser	University of Abertay
Ralph Gunn	Bell College
Robin Harding	The Open University in Scotland
David Kirk	Queen Margaret University College
Hazel Knox	University of Paisley
Julie McAndrews	University of Aberdeen
Lea McKay	University of Paisley
Dawn Porecki	University of Glasgow
Mireille Pouget	University of Stirling
Gerry Reid	Glasgow Caledonian University
Vivienne Urquart	University of Dundee
Eleanor Waugh	University of Glasgow
Ruth Whittaker	Glasgow Caledonian University and SCQF RPL Consultant

## **Appendix B: Flexible Programmes Coordination Group**

### **Founding members**

Andrew Eadie	Glasgow Caledonian University
Lynne Hooton	SISWE
Charles Juwah	Robert Gordon University
Maggie King	Heriot-Watt University
Linda Knox	University of Glasgow
Vince Mills	Glasgow Caledonian University
Mike McDonagh	Napier University
Dawn Porecki	University of Glasgow
Sue Tickner	University of Glasgow
Eleanor Waugh	University of Glasgow