

# SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME (WEST AND CENTRAL ACCESS CONSORTIUM)

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Minutes of the SWAPWest Annual General Meeting held on Friday 15th  
February 2019, Glasgow Kelvin College boardroom.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Carlyn McNabb (Chair)	Glasgow Kelvin College
	Shona Barrie	Stirling University
	Myra Sisi	South Lanarkshire College
	Andy Shea	GCU
	Carolyn Laird	New College Lanarkshire
	Julie Maxwell	Ayrshire College
	Neil Croll	University of Glasgow
	Debbie Duncan	University of Strathclyde
	Gordon Murray	West College Scotland
	Eleanor Wilson	GCU
	Cathy McNabb	West College Scotland
	Frances Cunningham (swap student)	University of Strathclyde
	Cheryl-Lee McPhillie (swap student)	University of Glasgow
	John Templeton (swap student)	Mental Health Nurse
	Amy Angus	SWAPWest
	Erica O'Neill	SWAPWest
	Lisa Marsili	SWAPWest
	Paula Christie	SWAPWest
	Kenny Anderson	SWAPWest Director
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Fiona Andrews	UWS
	John Rafferty	Glasgow Clyde College

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Carlyn McNabb (CM) Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Papers passed to all present. Carlyn thanked Anne Campbell and Mike Osbourne for their work on the SWAPWest executive.

## 2. SWAPWest Annual Report 2015 -2016

The annual report was tabled. (KA) provided an overview of the SWAP year highlighting student success.

KA introduced new Scottish Funding Council funded project focussing on student retention at university: STAY (Student Transitions and You) coordinated by new SWAP member Paula Christie (PC). PC introduced project.

### Objective 1 - partnership

Highlighted: work completed in each of the regions working in the west of Scotland. Report updated with enrolled figures for session 2018 - 2019.

Successful year for students progressing from SWAP Access to Medical Studies (Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Clyde College).

SWAP Access to Law, Business & Finance extended to South Lanarkshire College.

SWAP Men into Professional Care pilot running at Glasgow Kelvin College.

SWAP Introduction to Medical Studies pilot running at Glasgow Kelvin College.

SWAP access to childhood practice developed at South Lanarkshire College now being delivered in Ayrshire and at Kilmarnock.

Newly designed SWAP Access to Social Services running at Ayrshire College and New College Lanarkshire.

### **Objective 2 - accessibility**

Highlighted: work of guidance.

In conjunction with college and university partners, SWAP have redesigned the application process for Primary Education applicants.

Nursing continues to be a high demand programme for SWAP. Students from West College Scotland Greenock campus will be presenting to the Scottish government and Scottish Funding Council.

As a result of Chief Nursing Officer review of nursing widening participation, SWAP was invited onto the NES implementation group. Been an useful opportunity to work with partners.

Access to Childhood Practice development allows SWAP to engage with students with no qualifications aiming for career development.

New Science information session at UWS this year provided a more focussed insight to science programmes and facilities.

### **Objective 3 - student success**

Highlighted: outstanding student success stories.

The STAY project will liaise with university partners to develop resources to improve student retention.

KA highlighted the student success and spoke about Jenni's case study.

### **Objective 4 - social justice**

Highlighted: statistics for the 2017 - 2018 cohort and their progression. Highlighting the progression from SIMD 20: enrolments in MD20 area increased from 38% to 42%.

SWAP have been working with FOCUSWest to engage with parents and education.

### **Finance for period 1st August 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 (tabled)**

At the end of June 2017, SWAP's charitable status moved to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. As a result, financial accounts were submitted to OSCR for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> June. These were accepted leading to dissolution of the old SWAPWest charity. All the resources were transferred to the new SCIO.

KA tabled Finance Statement to the 31<sup>st</sup> July for partners to allow comparison with last years funding.

Caroline Laird (CL) inquired about the £1,000 difference in Scottish Funding Council funds between 2017 and 2018. KA explained that there was a core sum of £75,000 received from SFC. In 2016, SWAPEast had transferred £1000 from their budget to SWAPWest to cover additional work carried out in guidance and mentoring. The SFC national contribution to SWAP remained the same across both years.

### **3. Widening access - update on the work of the blueprint for fairer access. Opportunities for SWAP.**

KA discussed the involvement of SWAP across a range of widening access policy areas. Main work had been on the Commissioner for Fair Access short life working group on the Framework for Fair Access (COWA recommendation).

The work has split into two areas:

1. Evaluation - research led evaluation of Widening Access programmes, which will lead to a toolkit for fair access.
2. Community of Practice - examining how we work together as practitioners of Widening Access.

Shona Barrie (SB) explained that an outcome of the Blueprint for Fairness was to appoint a Development Officer, which will be hosted at Stirling University. Post application closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and appointment will coincide with the launch of the toolkit.

KA - no set date for toolkit launch, likely May 2019.

Neil Croll (NC) toolkit launch is set to coincide with the Commissioner for Fair Access' (Sir Professor Peter Scott) second report.

NC discussed the various groups that contributed to a project, which developed the Blueprint for Fairness in the Glasgow Region. NC detailed how these groups looked at learner journeys from all age groups; across WA programmes for schools and adult returners.

NC spoke about the Blueprint for Fairer Access in the Glasgow Region Outcomes/Recommendations:

Reach an agreement on the definition of 'Care Leaver.' Recommended definition submitted to Universities Scotland

Look for SAAS to remove 26-year age threshold. Estranged students should also receive full funding

Keep postcode framework as an indicator for SIMD

Free school meals for SIMD20/care experience

Look at Independent Student bursary

Look at income threshold to clarify poverty line

Implement by 2021

Consider indicators beyond postcode

SFC Access Programme Steering Group. KA explained that from June, this Steering Group would map all WA/WP provision in Scotland.

There was also the SFC Adult Engagement Framework, which will mirror the SFC school engagement framework. This was still in draft. SWAP had been asked to contribute to the development.

Universities Scotland have set up a variety of groups/committees. SWAP was represented on the University Admissions Group looks to contextualise access threshold to align with CoWA report.

CL provided information on FOCUSWest activities. They are putting a plan in place for students within high progression schools but who have other WA/WP indicators.

CL commented that some schools receive several WA/AP programmes, and they are thinking through this.

Eleanor Wilson (EW) explained that duplication in learner journey was part of the Blueprint project remit. Research suggests that, while it had expected there to be, duplication was not actually an issue for WA/WP in schools. Some schools need/want all the programmes.

EW - research suggests that WA/WP intervention is required at an earlier stage in the learner's journey.

CM concluded by advising we would keep partners up to date with SWAP's involvement.

#### **4. Governance/SCIO**

SCIO constitution. Changes proposed by Fiona Andrews and agreed at last meeting have been implemented.

For election of office bearers, KA took the chair.

The following office bearers were nominated and accepted by members:

Carlyn McNabb: Chair  
Neil Croll: Vice Chair  
Julie Maxwell: Secretary

The following annual membership subscriptions were tabled and accepted:

Fee for University is £3888. (half for Stirling).  
Fee for College - College with one campus but multiple programmes is £1094 per campus.  
Small college provision £675 (1 programme)

Committee structure: how to structure the SWAP Board (previously Executive) was discussed and the following proposals were agreed.

1. A member from each partner will be invited to attend board meetings (may elect a substitute for the meeting).
2. Agreed to meet twice annually (AGM moved to November and May. Option for an extra meeting in February if required).
3. KA to draw up a formal remit for executive of chair, vice chair and secretary to meet on an ad-hoc basis.

#### **5. 'SWAPWest Success Stories and Student Thoughts'**

Frances Cunningham (University of Strathclyde, formerly NCLAN STEM), Cheryl-Lee McPhillie (University of Glasgow, formerly WCS, Humanities) and John Templeton (Mental Health Nurse, formerly Glasgow Clyde, Nursing) discussed SWAP and university life.

Lively discussion with students.

CM thanked the students for their time and for their thoughts on improving the programme. She wished them well in their studies and employment.

## **6. AOCB**

No other business arising.

CM thanked and wished farewell to attendees.