**SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME**

**(WEST) SCIO**

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**Minutes of the SWAP West Annual General Meeting held on Friday 6th December 2019, University of Glasgow.**

**PRESENT:**

**Neil Croll (Acting Chair) University of Glasgow**

Paula Blair University of Glasgow

Dan Keenan University of Glasgow

Gordon Murray West College Scotland

Carolyn Laird New College Lanarkshire

Pauline Nelson West College Scotland

Derek Steven New College Lanarkshire

Ashley McLuckie New College Lanarkshire

Bobby Wallace New College Lanarkshire

Myra Sisi South Lanarkshire College

Kirsteen Newman South Lanarkshire College

Veronica McIlroy Glasgow Clyde College

Al Blackshaw University of Strathclyde

Andrew Shea Glasgow Caledonian University

Karin Surgeoner SWAPWest

Erica O’Neill SWAPWest

Andrew Quin SWAPWest

Fiona Andrews SWAPWest

Paula Christie SWAPWest

Kenny Anderson SWAPWest

**APOLOGIES**:

Shona Barrie University of Stirling

Eleanor Wilson Glasgow Caledonian University

Marcus Ross UWS

Alison Hillis UWS

John Rafferty Glasgow Clyde College

Robin Ashton Glasgow Kelvin College

Julie Maxwell Ayrshire College

Amy Angus SWAPWEST

Lisa Marsili SWAP West

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Neil Croll (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted. Minutes of the meeting of the 15th February 2019 were approved. In matters arising, NC informed the group that SAAS will be removing the age limit on the care bursary and it will now be available to anyone with care experience, entering higher education.

1. **Annual report and financial statement**

The annual report for 2018 - 2019 was tabled. Kenny Anderson (KA) discussed the success of past SWAP students who had spoken at previous meetings, Kevin Stapleton, who is now a PhD Student in Osaka, Japan at the institute for protein research. Lucie Provaznikova, Lucie is now working for the SSPCA and appeared on the BBC program ‘Born to be Wild’. KA highlighted that we now have programmes running in all regions and all campuses. Pleased that access to nursing programme was running at Stranraer campus of Dumfries campus. Positive work was also happening with Ayrshire College, in partnership with South Ayrshire Council in developing the childhood practice programme at Girvan Community Centre. The work highlights the lack of complacency of the partnership and the hard work in ensuring we step up our work.

**Objective 1 – Partnership**

Highlighted: the work in each of the regions working in the west of Scotland. SWAPWest asked Fiona Andrews to review our work. Part of the review considered enrolment and success of our regions. The report highlighted enrolments over the 5-year period and our wp indicators. For example, highlighting the gender work of Glasgow Clyde College, and the high rate of SIMD20 candidates at Glasgow Kelvin College and West College Scotland. Highlighted the work of NCLAN in relation to their performance in care. The development across regions of the access to childhood practice initially piloted at SLC and now proving successful across our college partners.

With SWAPEast we have introduced a new programme, Access to nursing at Argyll College UHI. This new programme is taught across all Argyll college campuses. To conclude this section, page 8 of the annual report shows the positive progress from across all college partners to our university partners.

**Objective 2 – Accessibility**

**Highlighted the curriculum work of our access programmes.**

Access to Humanities, a strong increase in the number of students progressing to UWS; there has also been a rise in student’s progressing to HNC programs from their SWAP programme. Retention has remained at 77%.

Demand for access to nursing is positive and has remained stable. We have been looking at innovative programmes such as men into professional care at Kelvin and WCS have introduced a new 1-year nursing programme that begins in January. The importance of the colleges and nursing programmes for the nursing profession has been highlighted by SWAP.

Access to Science remains stable. Introduction to medical studies proved beneficial and will be reviewed as a way of allowing access to our medical studies programme.

Access to childhood practice, developed by South Lanarkshire College, is proving to be a popular programme, Ayrshire college are now offering this programme across all campus’. Held our first curriculum group meeting, allowing a sharing of good practice.

**KA thanked all tutors for the dedication and hard work across all the SWAP programmes.**

**Prep for HE -** Highlighted the work of our University partners for hosting study skills days and the popular HE info days. Amy has been producing videos as a resource for the Prep for HE with students articulating the importance of utilising the prep resource. These videos highlight the importance of the swap student voice. Paula, James, and Karin are examples of the success of SWAP students, Karin will be leaving SWAP in the new year as she has accepted a role at focus west as a development officer. The meeting wished her well.

**Objective 3 - Student Success**

**Highlighted: the importance of the SWAP student voice**

The student network is going from strength to strength and now has over 800 members. James identified around 30 students that are particularly active in the network helping to support and guide fellow students. We are now investigating ways that students such as these can be thanked and possible gain accreditation for the work they are doing. Lisa has developed her work with science students and their progress, two examples of this are Kevin and Lucie, both mentioned in the annual report.

**Objective 4 – Social Justice**

**Highlighted: statistics for the 2018 – 2019 cohort and their progression.**

We continue to support the Government with supporting those from SIMD 1 areas. Also look to explore wider areas of education disadvantage, lack of qualifications, first in family, care leavers, disability and ethnicity.

SWAP actively supported the framework for widening access and continue to support former armed service personnel and the SFC initiative on gender.

We have developed project work, partnerships for education. Looking at providing our expertise with other organisations to highlight the successful impact of widening access. For example, with Focus West at Brannock High school in North Lanarkshire. We are working with Strathclyde Engineering Academy, South Lanarkshire Council and NCLAN on providing opportunities for senior school students from SIMD20 to progress to Strathclyde University. The SWAP model is being utilised with a very different group of students. The final partnership highlighted, was the interesting work with NHS NES. Working with CDN we organised a conference in June highlighting future nurse and widening access and developing fora for action. John, who attended last year’s meeting, is a mental health nurse and is supporting this work.

KA also pleased to advise that SWAPWest was participating in two European projects. Thanked Andrew Quinn for his work in this area.

MASTER project – Andrew Quinn provided a summary of the project aims. First meeting had gone well. SWAP was responsible for the first Intellectual Outcome, with Helen and Erica working on an outreach strategy. Partners will be kept up to date.

FETI project – Andrew Quinn provided a summary of the project aims. Start-up meeting was in 2 weeks’ time in Brussels. SWAP was working on an Intellectual outcome providing a base line of activity. Paula and James would be working on this, with Helen providing additional support if required. Glasgow Kelvin and Glasgow Clyde will be working with project team due to the high number of refugee students.

KA thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and for all their work over the past year and in future.

**Questions**

NC enquired if there is a way to show the partners, the number of students that progress from swap to HND to HEI. Veronica McIlroy pointed out she had some experience in this area within nursing and had a short discussion regarding her experience. Derek Steven also commented on the usefulness of that information for the HN framework. Andrew Quinn highlighted that there is a need to assure students that if they do not progress to HEI first time, that is not the end of their journey.

Kirsteen Newman enquired about SFC funding for adults. KA explained that the Scottish government are at present carrying out a review of adult education. We will highlight to SFC the positive progress made in adult education in colleges and universities.

NC returned to the early discussion regarding thanking students that are particularly active on the SWAP network, he highlighted Universities can respond to this. Andrew Shea also suggested the ‘common good award’ at GCU could also be a possible path for rewarding students.

**Finance statement for period 1st July 2018 – 31st July 2019** (tabled) & OSCR period to 30th April 2019.

KA presented the accounts. The accounts show that SWAP is in a healthy position. The SFC funding was for a 2-year period and the expenditure will equal itself out over the 2-year period. The group agreed that NC will sign off the SWAPWest SCIO OSCR return for the accounts to the end of April 2019.

**NC thanked Glasgow Kelvin College for hosting and supporting SWAP and City of Glasgow College for their continuing HR support.**

1. **SWAPWest SCIO governance**

**Election of Office bearers**

For election of office bearers, KA took the chair. The following office bearers were nominated and accepted by members:

Neil Croll: Chair

Julie Maxwell: Vice Chair

Myra Sisi: Secretary

**Annual subscription**

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 are £1094 per campus.

Small college provision £675 (1 programme)

1. **SWAPWest progress for 2019 - 2020**
   1. **Enrolments**

**KA tabled a preliminary report on 2019 – 2020 enrolments.** Pleased to report increase in enrolments and strong basket of wp measures. Shared additional data, such as lone parents (25%), students with dependants (more than 50%). Pre-employment statistics are showing that that their remains high levels of students coming from office back grounds, followed by care and retail. When students are asked how they heard about SWAP, the main answers were word of mouth or college webpage.

Ashley McLuckie pointed out that the change to care bursary will hopefully benefit students as we are seeing more students that are comfortable with disclosing their care background, Dan Keenan agreed that the bursary changes are an encouraging step in supporting care experience students. NC commented on the positivity of the SWAP SIMD numbers overall. KA pointed out that it is a challenge trying to meet the needs of all students.

* 1. **Programme development.** KA covered this in terms of discussion of new programmes in agenda item 2.
  2. **SFC funding.** KA advised we will be seeking funding in February for a 3-year period. SWAP national group had been meeting to inform the bid. In addition, Fiona Andrews was carrying out a review to assist the bid. Fiona Andrews gave a brief description of the work she has been doing and the results that have so far been discussed. Fiona finished by explaining that she is exploring the life cycle of the students from application to university. KA advised that we would keep the partnership informed and thanked partners for assisting Fiona’s review.

NC pointed out he was at the Access Delivery group meeting and made a point of mentioning the centrality of SWAP as well as the schools and the risk that lack of funding could impact both areas if not kept as a priority**.**

1. **STAY project**

Paula Christie gave a short presentation on the progress of the STAY (Successful transition and you) project. Presentation tabled. The project was well received by the group.

Kirsteen Newman asked about the numbers used in the pilot scheme. Paula Christie explained that initially there were twenty-eight taking part in the focus groups.

KA explained that we are looking to roll out the STAY project and make it a permanent part of the Prep for HE. Dan Keenan agreed that rolling this out is a positive step as it will allow all parties to give a consistent message to students and also provides an opportunity for working together. NC and Paula Blair discussed the rise in SWAP students applying to talent scholarship. NC pointed out the importance of accessing extra funding for students. Dan Keenan agreed that more promotion is needed to let students know about extra funding available to them.

Paula Christie finished off by giving details of the STAY project seminar that she is running on Wednesday the 11th December in the Hugh Fraser Seminar room from 2-4pm.

**6. AOCB**

No other business arising.

Neil Croll thanked and wished a Merry Christmas to attendees.