

DYW Case studies
May 2016

Schools College Timetabling

West College Scotland (WCS) working in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) have reviewed the vocational options open to young people in the secondary schools in this authority. The schools have changed their timetable (days and start times) and put the college courses in columns to complement the school curriculum and provide meaningful opportunities for young people to select grouping of subjects which link to particular career options and pathways. The college options are in the school options booklet which is sent to parents so the pupils pick school subjects and college subjects together as part of their senior phase curriculum. The previous vocational curriculum consisted of four vocational areas (mainly SCQF L 4 and 5) and three higher subjects. The new vocational curriculum has a much wider choice of subject areas and SCQF levels. These have been selected in line with LMI and key employment opportunities.

This curriculum is beginning to link much more with what is being offered in the secondary schools (less duplication, more understanding and clearer pathways). Heads of Sector have started to be involved in Network meetings to review jointly the curriculum with teachers in the schools and are also all meeting with the Director of the Regional invest group to investigate (and if required improve) employer input to the senior phase curriculum.

This curriculum will expand the vocational options open to young people, reduce duplication of delivery and provide clearer pathways from school to college. There is an increase in the number of industry led qualifications and subjects related to economic priorities on offer. As part of our joint commitment to a West Region STEM strategy, and the identification by employers and universities of this agenda being increasingly important to meet the needs of business, a wider range of STEM subjects are available.

CfE allows for a blended and flexible approach to learning. Working together we have a greater flexibility to offer a wider range of pathways and options, in line with labour market demands and which meet the needs of every learner.

Nursery children into construction

Links with the local nursery provision successfully led to raising awareness of the construction industry with boys and girls earlier this year. The intention was to catch the youngsters at an early age and give an understanding of the industry with a light touch but one which would ensure stereotypes are broken down from as young as age as possible. The children had a wonderful time!



Above is Burnbrae Nursery Glasgow who joined us at WCS for a full day in the dedicated construction base. A full risk assessment and method statement was produced to alleviate any risks or hazards. This activity was part of the nurseries STEM agenda and we have continued the partnership and are committed to building a wall at their premises with our students.

Some further highlights of DYW activities

School College vocational pathways and youth programmes

	Activity	Rationale	Impact/Outcome
1	Promotion of the school college programme – ‘Open Doors’ vocational pathways + college experience events on all three campuses organised jointly with LAs and Schools.	Recruitment to 2015-16 school college programme was disappointing in some vocational areas despite support from LAs and Head/Depute Teachers. It was clear that more needs to be done to promote vocational learning options to parents, teachers and pupils.	Increased recruitment to the 2016-17 school college programme, more efficient delivery with larger class sizes in areas of previously low recruitment and better choices made by pupils.
2	Taster and college experience activities to improve recruitment and success on the school college programme	It is critical that young people make the right choices for the school college programme and understand the pathways and learning expectations. A WCS prospectus will be produced and taster options run to help pupils make their selections	Improved recruitment, progression and student success rates on the school college programme.
3	A Youth Programmes Coordinator to ensure consistency of regional community youth programmes and coordinate the introduction of programmes in Inverclyde.	There is demand for Youth Programmes in Inverclyde to be delivered jointly with the schools and LA. Current WCS community provision is only available in Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire. Coordination is required to respond to the request from Inverclyde, meet demand and link activities across the region.	An enhanced experience for young people in Inverclyde and increased progression from Youth Programmes into further education or employment.
4	Joint CPD and development with school teachers	Staff understanding and joint planning between teachers and lecturers is critical to the operational success of the programme at curriculum level. Joint subject groupings and CPD is required across the region in key curriculum areas, involving staff and employers.	Pilot and three curriculum groupings and regional staff CPD planned for Oct 16 (agreed already with Directors of Education)
5	Curriculum mapping and pathway development	Development of the curriculum, new courses and materials for 2016-17 New vocational offers designed to reduce duplication, provide pathways and added value options for pupils. (20 new options across the three campuses in response to DYW recommendations with emphasis on progression pathways and employability)	Revised vocational offering with high quality materials

Employer Engagement

	Activity	Rationale	Impact/Outcome
6	Introduction of 'Adopt a class' enhanced employer engagement Scheme	Employer engagement is well established in many curriculum areas but more work is required to ensure all provision, including schools classes fully benefit from the involvement of employers in shaping provision, contributing to delivery and enhancing students' employability opportunities.	Every college class in 2016-17 will have an 'adopted' employer. This will increase the number of employers involved in shaping courses and provide enhanced learning opportunities
7	Support the development of further employer engagement in key sectors	Staff course coordination time in key areas is limiting senior staff availability to further develop employer relationships. Additional time is required in Care, Engineering, Travel + Tourism and Learner Development in particular.	Increased involvement of employers in the curriculum and the development of further commercial income potential

Student Work Experience

	Activity	Rationale	Impact/Outcome
8	Increase the work placement options for students within the college particularly in areas where external placements are difficult to secure	Certain curriculum areas including Computing are difficult to secure student work placements. The College also has pressures in IT staffing support and for IT additional support for students. Learner Development students can have more restricted placement options and require more support on placement.	Paid placements to students in IT support and voluntary experience in student support. Additional placements for Learner Development students in supporting college activities.
9	Partnership with the Golden Jubilee Hospital to provide additional placement opportunities for students.	Meetings have been held with the Executive teams of WCS and the Jubilee Hospital. A number of opportunities have been identified through these meetings to jointly benefit both organisations and provide work experience for students.	Paid and voluntary placements in areas including Administration, Hospitality and CSPD including instrument cleaning and infection control.
10	Development of WCS digital Career Management materials	Career Management is a critical part of student planning, soft skill development and employability. Adapting existing materials into interactive digital college materials will enhance student learning and improve understanding of skills for employment.	Structured college career management materials to support student learning and improve employability

Development of STEM

	Activity	Rationale	Impact/Outcome
11	Development of a regional STEM strategy jointly with local authorities and schools utilising NEF	The plan for a College STEM strategy is being extended to cover our regional partners with agreement with the three main local authorities. This additional funding will allow us to engage NEF to support the development and will include a joint event facilitated by NEF.	Clear understanding of the current strengths in STEM provision, the opportunities and the plan for further development across the region. Recognition of STEM priorities.
12	STEM activities within local schools Extension of the current STEM ambassadors and support for science in regional schools	Science applications have increased following significant promotion and work with schools. Further provision planned for 2016-17 & increasing STEM ambassador and school college science activity would help recruitment to this key area	Strong future recruitment into science courses.

Gender equalities

	Activity	Rationale	Impact/Outcome
13	Promotion of learning and career opportunities to females in IT, Construction and Engineering and Sport	Some gender stereotyping starts in primary school. Activities will include construction experiences in college for primary pupils. Less than 10 % of FT students on Computing courses are female. A targeted campaign will include promotion of Digital Learning to female school pupils. Research will be undertaken with pupils into the option of future female only computing courses.	Future increase in females in trade areas, engineering and computing.