

LEARNER INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

Prepared by:	Head of Learner Services		
Policy Approved by:	Strategic Management Team	01/03/11	Minute 1930
	Curriculum & Quality Panel	06/05/11	Minute 457
		14/10/11	Minute 469
	Curriculum & Quality Committee	06/06/11	Minute 271 (xii)
AOS Aim 2			
Equality impact assessed & endorsed		22/02/11	
Policy Implemented:	May 2011		
Review Date:	May 2014		

Preamble to the Policy

Equal Opportunities

The College shall comply with all statutory duties in respect of equal opportunities in the areas of sex, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, transgender, religion, belief, pregnancy, maternity and paternity, marriage and civil partnership and the rehabilitation of offenders. The College shall also comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and any subsequent enactments or modifications.

Purpose

To facilitate a culture which embraces learners' views and offers opportunities for them to have direct involvement in assessing and shaping their own learning experience, as we believe this has a significant and effective impact on developing the college's quality improvement processes and increasing learner success. Quality improvement is the cornerstone and chief end of this strategy as by improving quality the College provide a better learner experience; more opportunities for development; and generally develop a learner partnership.

Overview

The College is committed to involving learners in its strategic decision-making and operational management processes. This commitment is shared by the senior management team and the College Corporate Board.

The College believes that embracing learner views and offering an opportunity for learners to have direct involvement in assessing and shaping their own learning experience will have a significant and effective impact on developing the college's quality improvement processes and increasing learner satisfaction and success.

The minimum number of learners who will sit as full members on the corporation is one.

Vision

The vision underpinning this strategy mirrors the college mission that "Together we provide a high quality and vibrant learning environment to meet the needs and ambitions of learners, employers and the wider community." Together managers and learners will be

- Committed to continuing self-improvement
- Learners building their confidence, self esteem and motivation and in so doing the development of a learner community who demonstrate a commitment to the wider college.

Aims

The involvement of learners will enable the views/perceptions of learners to be gathered which will inform change and enhancement to provision; thus ensuring that in all aspects the college is responsive to the needs of learners.

Feedback from learners on their learning experience will enable the college to review processes and procedures associated with teaching and learning.

The Context

Coleg Morgannwg recognises it must see its role in a national and local context and will work with others to serve the needs of these populations. Therefore this strategy can also be recognised as contributing to Learner involvement across the region. Specifically this strategy supports the commitment held by the College to involve children and young people in decisions that affect their lives. This directly contributes to Core Aim 5 of the Children and Young People's Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff 2008-2011. The RCT Participation and Involvement Strategy.

The Activity

Attached to this document is a series of activities that arose from gap analysis work undertaken in 2009. Good practice both existing and in colleges across the UK was identified and drawn into a set of desirable activities for Coleg Morgannwg to achieve. Some headway has been made in these activities and the table will continue to form the basis for ongoing action plan of work.

Monitoring and reporting on the impact of the strategy

The action plan will be monitored via the Curriculum and Quality Panel, which includes learner representation, on a termly basis. Elements of the strategy will be monitored via the Quality improvement plans in each department.

The learner voice will be embedded in course reviews and in teaching and support department self assessment reports; managers will be expected to seek, act on and report the outcomes of learner feedback.

Feedback will be given to staff following surveys, structured discussions and parliament meetings; in turn learners will receive feedback on improvements made as a result of formal or informal feedback via such forums as Student Parliament Meetings and the Student Conference.

Progress toward this strategy will be updated on a termly basis by the Head of Learner Services.

COLEG MORGANNWG STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Learner involvement in Coleg Morgannwg

1. Activity Already Embedded

	Activity	Progress update
1	Student Parliament(s)/ Union	The parliaments meet regularly and are a good platform for learner consultation and views. Sometimes attendance can be poor (particularly Nantgarw and Rhondda). Our parliament structure interests external enquirers.
2	Structured discussions	Driven by the Quality process these occur to schedule and provide useful feedback to curriculum areas.
3	Student questionnaires	College and external questionnaires happen regularly and provide a broad brush view on set questions. Some surveys have lacked volume of response. The electronic methods deployed nowadays make them less burdensome.
4	Student Governors appointed	The student parliament elect student governors. Their attendance can be patchy depending on the individuals appointed to the role. Last year the rep. contributed well.
5	College Committee representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum & Quality • Equality • Sustainability • Campus Accommodation groups 	C&Q reps attended well and contributed Equality rep's attendance was weak Sustainability – wasn't attended due to travel distances and the agenda not enthusing the rep. Accommodation groups were well attended
6	Prizegiving and Graduation	We had some difficulties with last year's prize day but the rearranged event was held and chaired by learners.
7	Parents Evenings	Last year we held a cross college event that wasn't particularly well attended. Parent interest tends to vary but they are given opportunity to discuss progress at any time.
8	Fund Raising initiatives	The college continues to have outstanding fundraising activity. WBQ has been a spur for involvement in such activity.
9	Participation in external competitions	Led by SMT students getting involved in local and national events has increased and has had some notable successes.
10	Suggestion Box	Reception areas, canteens and LCs have suggestion boxes which are used regularly by learners to feed through ideas, suggestions and complaints
11	Complaints System	Complaints follow a well established process and are reported widely.
10	Buddying	This is used in a few departments but hasn't caught on across the college
12	Individual Learning Plans	Probes in the last year have evidenced an improvement in ILP paperwork. We have just purchased an electronic platform which should enhance discussion and records of discussions regarding learner progress and development.
13	Course Representatives	This is patchy across the college and is difficult to report on centrally.

COLEG MORGANNWG STRATEGY DOCUMENT

2. Activity Introduced in 2009/10

	Activity	Progress Update
1	Student Conference	We have had 2 annual conferences that have been a useful way of pulling together students across college to inform major issues. An action plan has resulted from each.
2	"A Day in the Life of"	Has run for a full year and is quite innovative. It has allowed senior managers to experience life in a way that will inform their work and decision making.
3	Enhance status of Parents Evenings	Campus Directors have been given the role of developing parents evenings.
4	Enhanced Programme of enrichment activities	Some activity was introduced in 2010/11 and is being expanded to a huge scale in 2011/12 with the introduction of a half day.
5	Student involvement in promotional college events;	This has happened at a low level and could be used to a greater extent.
5	Increased participation in external competitions	Participation and success has increased.

3. Activity to be developed 2011-2013

	Activity	Scope
1	Improved use of Student Intranet and "Moodle" for Curriculum delivery and off site access	Moodle is being rolled out and a new EILP system has been purchased to roll out in the next year.
2	Extend Programme of enrichment activities	Currently being extended
3	WBL feedback group WBL chat room – "Moodle"	TBA
4	Community learners Conference	TBA
5	Extend Buddying	TBA
6	Staff appointments	HR have just introduced a process of involving learners in appointments.