

Development of Public Good Statement

How relevant institutional strategic documents inform the development of the 'Statement of Contribution to the Public Good' and how the Statement aligns with the appropriate strategic objectives in these documents

There are five main institutional strategic documents that have informed the development of the Statement of Public Good, the Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the themes of which are further developed in the Annual Operational Plans, the Equality and Diversity Policy Statement, the more detailed Strategic Equality Plan and finally the HE Strategy which is driven by the College's overarching Strategic Plan.

The College's mission as stated in the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is 'to inspire and support our learners to achieve their full potential through the delivery of the highest quality education and training' and the vision is 'to be the best choice for learners'. The College's HE offer plays an important part in raising aspirations, enabling learners to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to achieve higher level qualifications, a step that many level 3 learners would not traditionally take. The aspiration raising and supportive environment provided by the College is recognised in the Statement of Public Good.

The College's key priorities and overall strategic direction are set out in its Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The Strategic Plan identifies four core strategic directions and associated aims that support the college in delivering its vision and mission.

The first strategic direction puts the learner at the centre of everything we do and talks about providing learners with an enriching experience and a wide support network to assist them in dealing with the wide range of challenges they will face. It goes on to talk about transforming lives in a positive way, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and experience that will enhance their opportunities for employment. Being able to leave college with a higher level qualification certainly expands the employment opportunity of many learners and this theme is developed in the Statement of Public Good.

One of strategic directions commits to achieving the highest possible positive impact on the economic and social wellbeing of individuals in Swansea and the South Wales region and talks about making a significant difference in the lives of those who come to the college. It commits to continuing to strengthen our contribution to the skills agenda by enhancing our engagement processes with employers; ensuring we are connected to their networks and are in touch with their needs. The Statement of Public Good describes how the current HE curriculum and priorities for future development have been responsive to industry, informed by industry demand, priority and developing sectors, offering niche areas to give students more choice and opportunities that are employability focussed.

One of the key priorities stated in the plan is to develop and future proof the College's estate to meet the needs of customers. The recent investment in a bespoke HE centre which provides a supportive environment with a HE culture, developed with the support of current and future HE learners demonstrates this commitment.

Finally the Strategic Plan sets specific targets for the period of the plan related to growth in HE opportunities and enrolments and strengthening learner satisfaction. Achieving these targets will ensure the provision of a broader curriculum offer and increase the number of learners entering the job market with higher level qualifications.

The themes and priorities set out in the Strategic Plan are then further developed in the Colleges Annual Operational Plan with clear specific actions and targets set each year to ensure continual advancement.

The Colleges Equality and Diversity Policy Statement and more detailed Strategic Equality Plan have also informed the Statement of Public Good. In both documents responsibility is placed on all staff in the College to help advance equality across the organisation, with examples of how we will do this including:

Encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in activities where participation is disproportionately low;

Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people and to remove or minimise disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics;

Making services, facilities and education accessible and providing everyone with the opportunity to achieve to their full potential and participate in College life.

The Strategic Equality Plan for 2019-22 is currently in draft, awaiting approval, and identifies objectives for the specific protected characteristics of sex, race, disability and gender reassignment and gender identity. The Statement of Public Good relates some of these themes to the HE cohort in the College and sets out to measure participation rates of identified under-represented groups, specifically in relation to disability and race.