



THE LEARNER JOURNEY:

Joining up education

Tuesday 28 February 2012, Edinburgh



HOME

More information online at www.holyrood.com/learnerjourney

With presentations from:

Keir Bloomer

Director, The Tapestry Partnership

Willy Roe CBE

Review of post 16 education and vocational training

Professor Petra Wend

Convenor Learner and Teaching Committee, Universities Scotland

Conference chair:

John Morrison

Journalist and Founding Director of McGarvie Morrison Media

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Welcome

As the education sector becomes the focus of yet more reforms, and the implementation of CfE gets well under way, those involved in both design and delivery have become increasingly vocal about the need for more collaboration, improved cohesion between sectors and a joined-up system that functions efficiently and offers a top-rated learner experience.

This one day Holyrood magazine Education event will ask what more could be done to smooth out the learner's journey through and beyond the education system.

We will consider the SNP pledge to deliver new pathways from school into 2nd year degree courses and the anticipated introduction of more direct entry into year two for Scottish Baccalaureate and Advanced Highers pupils, and by improving the arrangements around articulation post HND into second or in some cases third year of a degree course. It will also be a chance to discuss the proposals for an 'Associate'/College Degree' which is being proposed as a way of taking advantage of the lower cost of teaching in colleges and transferring funded numbers from university to college for the first two years of study. Experts will also look at how we ensure that we meet the needs of all Scotland's learners including those who wish to go on to post 16 vocational training.

Creating a system better aligned to the wide-ranging needs and expectations of young people, adult learners, and part-time learners who may be juggling studies with work or caring for a family, will be no mean feat but it's a challenge that few would argue Scotland can afford to ignore.

Session One

Increasing cohesion

The funding crisis, average OECD international rankings and complaints of duplication and lack of transparency have thrown open the debate on how to improve the learner journey from schools and colleges to university and beyond. This session will look at proposals from the Scottish Government and the Roe review on how we ensure better cohesion throughout the learner journey.

08:45

Registration and refreshments

09:25

Welcome and introduction by the chair John Morrison

*Journalist and Founding Director of
McGarvie Morrison Media*

09:30

Re-thinking the learner journey Keir Bloomer

Director, The Tapestry Partnership

- What is the learner journey?
- Where should the learner journey start?
- What are the flaws with the current system and how might we seek to improve these?

09:50

The review of post 16 Education and Vocational Training Willy Roe CBE

*Review of post 16 education and
vocational training*

- How do we strengthen post-16 education and vocational training arrangements and better integrate these with other parts of the education and employment systems?
- How do we ensure that Scotland has a truly coherent and high-performing system with the individual learner at its heart?

10:10

Views from the Scottish Youth Parliament

Rae Cahill MSYP

Vice Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament

10:25

Questions and discussion

10:45

Refreshments

Session Two

New pathways to higher education

Tighter budgets and the need for efficiencies have led to discussion on making the learner journey shorter; leaving school in S5 or entering university in 2nd year. It has meant schools and universities are offering less courses and there is increased competition for places. This session will look at how proposals may change the learner journey and how in turn this can create new pathways to higher education.

11:05

A flexible journey Speaker tbc

11:25

Questions and discussion

11:35

Creating shorter journeys Speaker tbc

- What is the purpose of S6 in Scotland's schools? Should pupils enter university from S5 or should university courses be shorter for those with advanced highers?

11:55

A pupil's perspective Billy McAuley

*Convenor, Glasgow Schools Student
Union*

12:05

The journey from further to higher education

Aileen Ponton

*CEO, Scottish Credit and Qualifications
Framework*

- How can we smooth the transition for those entering university from colleges?
- How do we avoid unnecessary duplication?

12:25

Questions and discussion

12:40

Lunch

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Session Three

Working together

It has been suggested that schools could come together to form "hubs" for learners studying highers and advanced highers to ensure access to a wider range of courses, but are there also benefits to schools working alongside FE colleges? Can FE colleges also work with universities to offer a more cost effective degree? This session will look at the benefits of collaboration between schools, colleges and universities.

13:40

A collaborative approach

Linda McTavish CBE

Principal, Anniesland College

- Rethinking the relationship between schools and colleges
- What benefits can come from increased collaboration?

14:00

The 'college degree'

John Spencer

Convenor, Scotland's Colleges

Can further education institutes contribute towards the teaching of university degrees?

- Does this allow learners more time to prepare for the university experience?

14:20

A joined up model

Fraser Durie

Director of Educational Development,
Adam Smith College

Professor Steven Olivier

Vice Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Acting), University of Abertay Dundee

14:40

Questions and discussion

15:00

Refreshments

Session Four

Looking to the future

Scotland's schools, colleges and universities are operating within an ever changing environment. How do we ensure that despite changes, the needs of all learners are met? What about those learners that do not wish to go onto university? Further more, are Scotland's universities and colleges able to provide the level of support and access needed to meet government ambitions?

15:20

Meeting the needs of all learners

Bill Maxwell

Transitional Chief Executive, Education
Scotland

- A look at 16+ learning choices and opportunities for all, how does this fit in with the idea of a learner journey?

15:40

Raising Connectivity - Structured Journey

Representative from Rathbone UK

15:55

A look to the future

Professor Petra Wend

Convenor Learner and Teaching
Committee, Universities Scotland

- University funding and pressure to make efficiencies has led to uncertainty for many of Scotland's universities. What does this mean for the future of Scottish learners?

16:15

Questions and discussion

16:30

Summary and conclusions from the Chair

16:35

Close of conference

Keynote speakers



Keir Bloomer

Director, The Tapestry
Partnership

Keir Bloomer is Chair of the Tapestry Partnership and Chair of the Court of

Queen Margaret University. From 1996 until November 2000, he was Executive Director of Education and Community Services with Clackmannanshire Council and was President of the ADES in 1999/2000.

Subsequently he became Chief Executive of the Council. He was a member of the review group which wrote "A Curriculum for Excellence", having previously been one of the advisers to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament.



Willy Roe CBE

Review of post 16 education
and vocational training

Willy Roe is the Scotland
Commissioner with the UK
Commission on Employment

and Skills. The Commission was developed to provide strategic leadership on skills and employment issues in the four nations of the UK and recently completed a UK wide review of Youth Unemployment. He recently led a review of post-16 education and vocational training in Scotland, on the request of the Scottish Government, with his findings submitted to the administration in June 2011. Prior to taking up the review, he was Chair of Skills Development Scotland. Willy is also Chair of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, a post he has held since September 2004, and is a member of the Board of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



Professor Petra Wend

Convenor Learner and
Teaching Committee,
Universities Scotland

Professor Wend originally
read Italian and French

Language and Literature, and Education at the University of Münster and gained a PhD in Italian Language and Literature at Leeds University. She went on to teach German and Italian at Middlesex University, before being appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of North London where she subsequently became Pro Vice Chancellor. She joined QMU as Principal and Vice-Chancellor in 2009. Professor Wend is Convenor of Universities Scotland's Learning and Teaching Committee.

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