

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Academic Board – 6 May 2022

Summary of Block 2 Focus Groups

Report by Learner Engagement Officer

1. Introduction

Learner Engagement activities allow learners to feedback meaningfully on all aspects of college life. As well as learners participating in the Block 2 Stop and Check activity, Learner Focus groups were suggested to help gather more information on blended learning and other aspects of the learning experience. A total of nine focus groups took place online during Block 2, you will see the questions and responses below.

2. Focus Groups Summary

Below are summaries of learner responses to each of the above prompts.

Is the information, guidance and support you receive meeting your needs?

- Information regarding support from teaching staff and progression routes were discussed in some courses.
- Almost all learners, either internal progressors or new, felt prepared for the first day of their course. Most information given during interview and induction was clearly explained, accurate and relevant to the course.
- Course expectations are meeting almost all learners' needs.
- Learners feel supported by most teaching staff.
- Almost all learners know their next progression route, with some progressing internally, into other colleges, into higher education and some going into work.

Do the programmes of study you are undertaking suit learners' needs?

- Most learners feel the course meets their needs and allows them to enhance their current skills as well as develop new ones.
- Almost all learners are happy with their course.
- Most learners are satisfied with their course, with lecturers being supportive and flexible when personal circumstances arise.
- In some courses lessons are being recorded with allows learners to refer back to the recordings to help with coursework or missed information.

A couple of courses have indicated they feel less confident in progressing into their field of study due to the circumstances surrounding the current situation of Covid. They feel they haven't had enough practical experience and would not be able to carry out the job to the best of their abilities.

How well do you feel that you are learning? How well do you feel that you are taught?

- Discussions took place regarding learning and teaching styles, resources, progress and development.
- Almost all learners are aware of their own learning styles, and notice the different teaching methods used by lecturers.
- Most learners feel that lecturers will adapt their teaching methods to suit the needs of individual learners.
- Some learners feel they have an input into planning lessons and this can make lessons more interactive.
- Most lecturers keep the course interesting and motivating for the learners.
- Almost all learners find feedback given out after assessments useful, which have enabled them to develop in areas they may have subsequently missed.
- Most learners stated that teaching resources used are up to date and relevant to their course.
- Lecturers are flexible with assessments and they are carried out in an appropriate and in a variety of ways i.e. open/closed book, essays, multiple choice, and practical sessions.
- Most learners feel that equipment used within their course is of a good quality.
- Most learners are tracking progress with one to one sessions with course tutors. Not all learners are aware of the ILP.

Due to covid restrictions not all courses have been in campus and some have only attended campus part time, with the rest of the course being delivered online. Discussions surrounding blended learning were positive as most learners like the flexibility and not having to travel into campus. Some courses that have more practical elements to them would be prefer to be spending more time in campus.

How well are you supported by college support services?

- Almost all learners know to access support services when needed i.e. Advice and Guidance, Learner Support and Student Funding.
- Almost all learners who have accessed the services have found the staff helpful, friendly and informative.
- If learners have had to contact any support staff department, staff have been available.
- Almost all learners feel that the facilities are clean and to a good standard and have noticed the enhanced cleaning taking place within their campus.
- A few learners have a loaned college chrome book, most have found then useful and easy to use, but a few have had some difficulties.

Learners know how to contact support services if required and have had to issues getting hold of anyone if needed. Some issue with chromebooks have now been addressed with the ICT Manager

To what extent are you enabled to express your views on aspects of college life and how the college operates?

- Most learners during the focus groups had heard about the Students' Association, with a few classes understanding their role within the College.
- The majority of classes had at least one class representative, most had been invited to attend course team meetings.
- Most students are aware of the mechanisms for feedback e.g. through their class representative, course team meetings, stop and check and by speaking to their course tutor directly.

Conclusion

Overall, most learners are satisfied with their college experience so far. Learners seem to be enjoying some aspects of blended learning but obviously most would prefer to be in campus, especially for practical elements of their course.

Learners participating in focus groups have generally been very positive about their college learning experience to date. Almost all learners feel that information, advice, support and course delivery suits their needs, and that learning is engaging and enjoyable.

Blended learning works well within some courses but ones with more practical elements would like to be in campus more.

Fortunately, most focus groups conducted in block two were able to take place in campus which gives more meaningful feedback and more learners are able to engage. The difficulties with facilitating focus groups online are that most learners keep their cameras off and only a few learners seem to fully engage. Learners have the opportunity to add any additional comments in the chat function or contact myself directly afterwards if they don't have the confidence to speak during the focus group.

Some focus Groups for Block 3 have been organised, Feedback from these sets of focus groups will be reported to the next Academic Board meeting.

3. Resources Implications

No resource implications.

4. Equalities

No equality issues.

5. Risk and Assurance

No risk implications

6. Data Protection

No data protection issues.

7. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

8. Further Information

Further information on any aspect of this report can be obtained from Arlene Sweeney, Learner Engagement Officer.

Glasgow Kelvin College
AS
29/04/2022