

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY 2013-2015

1 Mission Statement

1.1 'Realising student potential and achieving excellence'

2 Context

2.1 This strategy has been developed in the context of the College's Corporate Strategy 2013-16 as a core value for the College is to be:

'Student centred: we have ambition for our students, raising aspirations and placing their needs at the heart of everything'.

2.2 This strategy has been developed within a national context such as:

FE White Paper 'Creating Opportunity, Releasing Potential, Achieving Excellence'

Which states that student involvement requires a steady state of continuous self-improvement and recognises that this will be achieved when students, employers and other stakeholders are routinely systematically and successfully embedded into the College self-assessment and improvement processes (July 2011).

Framework for Excellence (January/February 2011)

Identifies listening to the student voice as a key strategy in its quality improvement strategy and identifies the student as an active partner in performance improvement.

2.3 Ofsted Handbook for the Inspection of Further Education and Skills from September 2009 (reviewed September 2012) states that the views of students are central to inspection to quote:

'To be outstanding the provider has highly successful strategies for engaging with learners... to the obvious benefit of all learners'.

2.4 This strategy should be read in conjunction with the College's Strategic Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2011-14 and its associated policies and the Student Voice Policy.

It is contextualised through the College's Student Voice Framework (FE).
(Appendix 1)

3 Rationale

3.1 This document sets out the strategy for student involvement at Doncaster College. It will foster and promote a culture of student involvement. This will be achieved by supporting students to be more actively involved in:

- Governance
- Learning, teaching and assessment

- Life of the College
- Operational and strategic planning
- Quality improvement and processes
- Equality and diversity
- Safeguarding
- Volunteering.

3.2 It will encourage independence and self-motivation enabling students to become active participants in their own learning at Doncaster College and encourage them to develop an interest and commitment to the wider College community.

4 Fundamental Principles

4.1 The facilitation of student involvement is of paramount importance therefore we will:

- Actively listen to the student voice
- Ensure that the College's decision making process is driven by assessing the impact upon the student
- Provide a curriculum that is relevant and connects to young people's lives, particularly their tutorial experience
- Promote a flexible pedagogy that understands the complexity of students' lives
- Avoid creating powerful student elite by developing methodologies that facilitates inclusion in the context of student voice.
- Involve the whole student body, including work based learning students and modern apprentices
- Empower and enable students to contribute to the decision making process as it impacts upon their learning experience
- Encourage students to be involved in their community through volunteering, being Youth MPs and participating in community consultations.

5 A College Strategy

5.1 This strategy will be responsive to the changing profile and needs of College students, national developments and comply with government legislation.

5.2 All members of staff should be individually responsible for ensuring that they actively listen to the voice of the student.

5.3 This strategy should cover all aspects of College business which relates to and affects students including:

- Governance
- Admissions, initial assessment and induction

- Student voice
- Development of the individual learning plan
- All policies and procedures as it relates to the students' experience
- Group Tutorial and Enrichment
- Student retention
- Curriculum content and development
- Student representation
- Student Parliament
- Complaints and compliments.

6 Structure and Systems

- 6.1 The College operationalises its strategy through its Student Voice Group. Voice of the student reports are provided to the College's Curriculum, Quality and Performance Committee. Student involvement objectives for each aspect of the College's work will be determined and agreed.
- 6.2 Voice of the student through College surveys will be analysed and priority areas for action and improvement targets set, within its programme area SARs, QUIPS and College SAR and QUIP (*see Appendix 1*).

7 Critical Success Factors

- Visible commitment of senior management and Governors to active listening to the voice of the student.
- Active participation and involvement of all staff in the promotion of student involvement.
- At all levels, there is a commitment to provide the appropriate resources to enable and encourage students to contribute to operational and strategic issues which affect their learning experience.
- Provision of training for course representatives so that they can fully participate in student involvement activities.
- Provision of space for students to meet, organise and contribute their views.
- Acceptance of student involvement/voice as key components in the evaluation of College services.
- Ensuring that a key College policies and procedures are regularly reviewed in line with student feedback.

- Need to involve whole student body, including work based learning students, modern apprentices and students with protected characteristics.

8 Next Steps

- 8.1 The College has translated its Student Involvement Strategy into key objectives:
- a) Involve students in College decision making processes thereby strengthening student participation and active representation.
 - b) Allocate appropriate resources to enable and encourage students to contribute to operational and strategic issues which affect their learning experience.
 - c) Involve students individually and collectively in the College's quality improvement processes.
 - d) Involve students and respond to individual needs through an inclusion agenda.

9 Impact Measures: Key Performance Indicators

- 9.1 Corporate Strategy 2013-2016:
- a) Student satisfaction in relation to diversity and safety is 85% or above
 - b) Student attendance at a minimum of 90%
 - c) Student retention at a minimum of 90%
 - d) The staff and student diversity profile is in line with the profile of the local community as measured by College and census data.
- 9.2 The student voice impacts positively on provision in ways that are measurable and demonstrable.
- 9.3 The Student Parliament is effective and impacts positively on the student experience.

