

Progress Report (Wales): Final

HEFCW The Higher Education Academy: Grant arrangements for 2007/08

Part Three: Wales-specific aspects of UK activities

1. Progress against the Grant Letter is reported to the HEFCW Learning and Teaching Committee on a regular basis.
2. The table below summarises progress.

Supporting quality enhancement at the institutional and sectoral level

Reference	Page	ITEM	Status	Comment	IMPACT
15 a	5	analysis of institutional Learning and Teaching Strategies	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide re-assurance and evidence to HEFCW that Learning and Teaching Strategies are fit for purpose - Provide re-assurance to HEFCW that sector is in a healthy state
15 a (i)	5	update its programme of activities in Wales	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will result from the implementation
		prepare a quality enhancement action plan for Wales	Completed	Draft developed but put on hold following discussion with HEW and HEFCW LTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided an opportunity to develop dialogue between HEW, HEA and HEFCW
		identifying short and longer term enhancement activities	Short term identified Long term items not identified	Short term (ie 2007/08) activities were identified. Longer term activities have not due to a number of reasons, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not apparent what the longer term ones should be in Wales (the Academy is trying to develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuity has been maintained with 2006 – 07 priorities

				a more strategic approach to its work in Wales e.g. through discussions with new HEW PVC Learning and Teaching Advisory Group) and IPP	
15 a (i)	5	identifying short and longer term enhancement activities (cont)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inherent issues related to long term planning (as manifest in the debate about a 3 or 10 year e-learning strategy) - changes due to the development of the Academy new 5 year Strategic Plan - Policy instability 	
		an enhancement event addressing the outcomes of the QAA review of research degree programmes in Wales	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview report also produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-assure HEFCW that issues identified have been raised with WHEIs - To support Welsh HEIs review current practice and provide insights into ways to enhance
		placed on the agenda for the meeting of the Learning and Teaching Committee in October 2007.	Done	See LTC Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-assure HEFCW and HE sector in Wales that the Academy has devised a programme of work in response to the needs to Wales and Welsh HEIs
15 a (ii)	5	Continue to assist HEFCW in the development of an e-learning strategy	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the first time the higher education sector in Wales has a coherent strategy - The strategy has influenced HEFCE view of 'e-learning'

15 a (ii)	5	Continue to assist HEFCW in the development of an e-learning strategy (cont)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The strategy has shifted the focus away from the technology and onto the enhancement of the student learning experience
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On HEIs is difficult to determine but HEIs in the benchmark have had an independent review of their institutional position in regard to e-learning
		and implementation plan	On-track	On-going A further £1m was secured to move to a 'developmental' stage and work is progressing on that with HEIs that have completed the benchmarking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has provided a coherent approach to effecting agreed change in the sector in regard to 'e-learning'.
		providing a report on the outcomes of the benchmarking project in Wales	Completed	The work in Wales has been included in the UK report <i>Challenges and Realisations from the Higher Education Academy/JISC Benchmarking and Pathfinder Programme, An End of Programme Review by the Higher Education Academy, Evaluation and Dissemination Support Team</i> September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to assess but more sharing of best practice which includes that from Wales
		workshop on the benchmarking to facilitate the sharing of best practice and embedding of e-learning in Wales.	Done	HEFCW, JISC RSC and HEA consultation event held November 13 2007	Moved e-learning activity in Wales "from the margin to the mainstream"

Advising HEFCW on policies relating to quality enhancement of Learning and Teaching:

Reference	Page	ITEM	Status	Comment	IMPACT
15 b	5	the Chief Executive of the Academy to observe meetings of our Learning and Teaching Committee		Senior Advisor represented. Deputy Chief Executive attended 18.1.08 Professor Colley (Senior Associate) attended 4. 4. 08	Has maintained and developed closer working between HEA and HEFCW
15 b (i)	5	In working with HEFCW on graduate employability initiatives and employer engagement, taking account of the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Leitch Review of Skills, the Independent Review of the Mission and Purpose of Further Education in Wales in the Context of the Learning Country: Vision into Action, chaired by Sir Adrian Webb, and the Study of the Role of Foundation Degrees in Wales.	Limited progress due to awaiting WAG response to Leitch and Webb Review	External constraints have limited progress such as the delay by WAG in responding to Leitch. However: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deputy Chief Executive attended launch 17.1.08 Senedd <i>Skills that work for Wales</i> consultation - HEA meeting (Professor Freda Tallantyre/Steve Outram/ Senior Advisor Wales) with Project leader – 'Strategic Development of High Level Learning for the Workforce in Wales' Project leader Peter Treadwell (UWIC) 8.1.08 - Attended HEFCW Advisory Board Meetings on Workforce Development 17.03.08 and 21.7.2008 - Meeting Professor Freda Tallantyre/Jo Banks (Head of Skills Strategy and Policy) WAG 1.4.08 to advise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perhaps no immediate impact but conversation with Professor Tallantyre may have influenced WAG policy. - Academy attendance on advisory board is providing links to other UK practices
15 b (ii)	5	On continuing engagement with the Skills for Business Network Wales to increase the relevance of HE provision to meet the needs of Welsh industry. This	Limited progress due to changes with external agencies and other issues	However: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings SSDA (Dr Rachel Jones) - Meeting with HEFCW/SSCs - Meetings x2 with LLUK 	

		will include encouraging links between Academy Subject Centres and relevant Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) in Wales and working with Lifelong Learning UK in Wales (cont)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings cancelled (by WAG) on LSO Strategic Group Meeting - Liaising with WAG Learning and Skills Observatory Manager on WAG observatory - Meeting Steve Outram/ Senior Advisor Wales (Nov 07) to review developing stronger links between subject centres and Welsh HEIs given one priority of <i>employability</i> - Range of review meetings with subject centres (eg ESCalate, economics, engineering, CEBE) and analysis of engagement in Wales - Wider work with subject centres re Wales and economic dimension including ADM pan Wales project meetings (x3) 	Potentially high as the intended outcome is a report to the WAG with a view to influencing policy and the contribution of ADM to the creative industries in Wales
15 b (iii)	5/6	In facilitating the Welsh HE sector to deliver the priority and supplementary actions set out in the Welsh Assembly Government's document: <i>Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship -</i>	Completed /	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conference organized 21 05 08 - Wales Sustainable Development Network Group (WHEIs, HEFCW, WAG (champion) HEA) meetings x3 - Input from Dr Simon Smith - Liaison with HEFCW 	<p>Difficult to assess however there was a very positive sector response to the timeliness of the event</p> <p>ESDGC activity linked to UK activity through HEA ESD e-newsletter</p>

Reference	Page	ITEM	Status	Comment	IMPACT
15 b (iii)	5/6	- <i>a Strategy for Action</i> , in relation to their impact on institutions' activities in L&T and Third Mission in particular. (cont)	On track:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wales Sustainable Development Network Group (WHEIs, HEFCW, WAG (champion) HEA) meetings x3 - Input from Dr Simon Smith - Liaison with HEFCW (Dr Alyson Thomas) 	
15 b (iv)	6	In implementing the Welsh Assembly Government's distinctive policies on widening access, including through the HEFCW Reaching Wider initiative.	Limited progress due to a number of factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminated to HEFCW Widening Access officer /WHEIs 'Towards a Business Case' Launch Event for the Embedding Widening Participation & Promoting Student Diversity research report. - Unable to attend Widening Access and the Reaching Wider Initiative evidence gathering and measuring progress meeting. - Academy invited HEFCW/Welsh representative to NAO Report dissemination event in England 	Limited
15 b (v)	6	In working with the HEFCW-funded Disability and Diversity Coordinator to facilitate institutions in broadening access and improving provision for under-represented groups in HE.	Limited progress due to a number of factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Seminar Series: Inclusive Policy and Practice disseminated to WHEIs - HEA identifying key contacts to support TechDis' work in Wales - Meeting with RSC Wales 	Limited

Reference	Page	ITEM	Status	Comment	IMPACT
15 b (vi)	6	In continuing to work with HEFCW and other bodies, including the QAA and NUS Wales, to support institutions in enhancing student representation in higher education in Wales.	On track	On-going: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions taken place with HEFCW - Meeting HEA/NUS Wales (York HEA meeting with NUS) - Cross Sector Student Wales Meeting (QAA, NUS, HEFCW, HEA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growing awareness of the importance of the role of the student in quality processes - Developing link between the work in Wales and the HEA UK – wide work
15 b (vii)	6	In working with HEFCW and Welsh institutions and others as appropriate on issues relating to internationalisation, including engaging effectively with the Wales International Consortium, Wales Higher Education Brussels and the Bologna Promoter for Wales in progressing this agenda and helping Welsh institutions to take it forward.	On track	On-going: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of Academy Exchange magazine special on Internationalisation - Academy sponsor of multi-agency European conference (Cardiff) - Meeting WIC taken place - Senior Advisor Wales chaired meeting of European Commission briefing on the Lifelong Learning priorities for 2008-10 and case studies from the Brussels e-learning networking (Brussels) at invitation of WHEB - Bologna promoter invited/presented at various Academy events e.g. PGR, BMAF Annual Conference - Contribution by Prof Paul Luker at HEFCW The International University: A view from Wales conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to assess. Welsh HEIs are increasingly seeking developmental work to support them

Supporting Welsh Medium Teaching: “....Specifically in 2007/08, we would wish the Academy to:

Reference	Page	ITEM	Status	Comment	IMPACT
15 c	6	ITEM			
15 c (i)	6	Work with the WMTDC and the sector to provide advice and guidance to support Welsh Medium teaching staff in applying the Professional Standards Framework in a Welsh medium context.	On track	On-going - A pilot module has been developed to fit within Academy accredited THE scheme	Staff teaching through the medium of Welsh and/or bilingually are being supported in their professional development within an Academy accredited programme available to all Welsh HEIs
15 c (ii)	6	Ensure that Academy subject centres build and maintain links with particular disciplines in the Welsh HE sector in a Welsh medium context, as well as creating network groupings between centres and institutions.	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Steve Outram/ Senior Advisor Wales /Dr Dafydd Trystan - Dr Dafydd Trystan invited to ADM Project meeting to advise - Review meeting Dr Dafydd Trystan /Dr Ioan Mathews - Priority ‘Welsh Medium Development Plans’ for law and geography have been sent to the respective Subject Centres and feedback provided - Most subject centres now have an overview page in Welsh 	Stronger strategic links have been developed between Centre for Welsh Medium HE and the HEA and the subject centres and Welsh medium
15 c (iii)	6	Take account of the Welsh Medium context in developing e-learning approaches in Wales.		Referred to HEFCW e-Learning Working Group	

Annex A

Excerpt from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales Remit Letter 2007-08

'I would like you to undertake further work on **learning and teaching**. You reported to me last year on the programme of enhancement activities drawn up by the Higher Education Academy to address areas where concerted activity at a national level could enrich the learning experience within individual institutions. I would like you to take this work forward in 2007-08 and encourage institutions to engage with the Academy and utilise its services to enhance the quality of the student learning experience. I particularly note from your response the key priority areas of Assessment, Work-based Learning/Employability, Research-Informed Teaching Practice, e-Learning, and Welsh Medium and would welcome continued action to address these matters. A particular area of focus in 2007-08 will be e-learning and I look forward to seeing the outcome of the Council's work with the Academy, the sector and others on developing an e-learning strategy.'

'I welcome your work with the Quality Assurance Agency to review on an ongoing basis the quality and standards of provision in higher education in Wales. The Agency will have an important role over the coming period while the new institutional arrangements which follow the University of Wales changes continue to bed down. It will be important for you to be satisfied that these arrangements are effective and can provide the Council with the assurance you require in this area. I would also like you to encourage institutions to identify how the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and supporting learning in higher education may be supported through their learning and teaching strategies.'

C:\Documents and Settings\gabrielj\My Documents\Gabriel Current work\Wales\HEFCW\LTC\Oct 2008\HEFCW HEA 2007-08 grant letter Draft Report 2007 - 08 GJ.doc