

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
13/03/09	22	HEFCW/09/27

1 Issue

- 1.1 This item provides for the information of members the final report on the progress of the Higher Education Academy against the grant letter for 2007/08. It also provides the annual report of the Academy for the UK, for the information of members.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 Under 'The Deal for Students' in the current Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plan it is stipulated that HEFCW will 'work with the HE Academy to enhance quality and standards of provision.' The Academy is also listed as one of HEFCW's partners.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Note the final report of the Higher Education Academy on performance against the HEFCW grant letter for 2007/08;
 - ii. Note the annual report of the Higher Education Academy for the UK for 2007/08.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 There are no timing implications for this paper.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

- 6.1 Contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (Tel 029 2068 2283; E-mail: cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

7 Background

- 7.1 The Academy's mission is to help institutions, discipline groups and all staff to provide the best possible learning experience for their students. It is funded primarily by the UK funding bodies through an annual grant, and by institutional subscriptions.
- 7.2 A Funding Agreement between the Academy and HEFCE, on behalf of the four funding bodies, was signed in 2004 and is in place until 2009. HEFCW pays around 5 per cent of the total cost of the Academy for the UK funding bodies. The Academy is also funded by subscriptions from institutions.
- 7.3 HEFCW provides an annual grant letter to the Academy stipulating areas to be addressed in the coming year. This includes UK-wide activities funded by all four funding bodies, and Wales-specific activities.
- 7.4 At its September 2008 meeting Council approved funding from HEFCW to the Academy of £884,809 for 2008/09 (HEFCW/08/CE5). Council also approved in principle a similar sum plus GDP for 2009/10 and 2010/11, subject to a similar confirmation of funding by HEFCE.
- 7.5 HEFCE have now confirmed a zero per cent rise in funding for 2009/10.

8 Higher Education Academy reports for 2007/08

- 8.1 The grant letter for 2007/08 from HEFCW to the Academy is attached at **Annex A**.
- 8.2 The final report of the Academy on performance against the HEFCW grant letter 2007/08 is attached at **Annex B**. This was provided for discussion to the January 2009 Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) meeting.
- 8.3 The Academy's annual report for 2007/08 is attached at **Annex C**. This was tabled for the information of members at the January 2009 LTC.

The Council is invited to note the final report of the Higher Education Academy on performance against the HEFCW grant letter for 2007/08;
The Council is invited to note the annual report of the Higher Education Academy for the UK for 2007/08.

9 Financial implications

- 9.1 The cost of the Academy to HEFCW was £861,128 for 2007/08, which was five per cent of the total for the funding bodies. The Academy is also funded by institutional subscriptions. The cost of the Academy to HEFCW is £884,809 for 2008/09. The payment for the Academy is allocated within the learning and teaching fund.

10 Communications implications

- 10.1 No communications implications arise out of this paper. The Annexes have been shared with HEFCW's Learning and Teaching Committee.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 11.1 Paragraph 10 of the grant letter for 2007/08 stipulates that ‘Throughout its operations, we would ask the Academy to incorporate the requirements of all equal opportunities legislation (currently protecting against discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnic origin/racial group, sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability, and age) into its work. The Academy should also seek opportunities to actively promote race, disability and gender equality, in line with the requirements placed on the English, Scottish and Welsh higher education funding councils under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006, and in line with the requirements placed on the Department for Employment and Learning under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998’
- 11.2 Paragraph 15 b (v) included ‘working with the HEFCW-funded Disability and Diversity Coordinator to facilitate institutions in broadening access and improving provision for under-represented groups in HE.’
- 11.3 Paragraph 15 c provided a section on supporting Welsh medium teaching.

12 Risk Assessment

- 12.1 Risks are identified in the table below:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
The Academy fails to deliver an efficient and responsive service.	The Academy is addressing recommendations arising from its interim evaluation. The performance of the Academy is discussed twice a year by all the funders. The LTC considers the final report of the Academy on performance against the grant letter for each year, and monitors the work of the Academy.
Academy focuses on HEFCE priorities and agendas to the detriment of HEFCW or institutions in Wales	HEFCW officers hold regular meetings with the Academy to identify priorities for Wales and monitor activities being carried out. The grant letter reflects UK-wide priorities and specific priorities for Wales.
Institutions decide not to subscribe to the Academy	The Academy is liaising regularly with institutions in Wales to identify areas with which it may be able to provide support for enhancement purposes.