

## Council meeting

*For information*

### **GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience Re-evaluation and Extension**

**Agenda: 25  
HEFCW/20/15**

Disclosable

**23/01/2020**

#### **1 Issue**

- 1.1 This paper is to inform Council that the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) are in the process of agreeing an extension to the GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience programme, and to make Council aware of the potential implication on the HEFCW budget. This paper is presented for information and requires no decisions by the Council.

#### **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. note the extension to the programme and the potential implication on the HEFCW budget.

#### **3 Council members' interests**

- 3.1 We are not aware of any Council members' interests relevant to the issues covered by this paper.

#### **4 Further information**

- 4.1 Contact Emma Mock (029 2085 9742; [emma.mock@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:emma.mock@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## 5 Background

- 5.1 The GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience programme ([www.gowales.co.uk](http://www.gowales.co.uk)) started in April 2016 with an original end date of March 2019. The programme, which comprises of two ESF funded projects (West Wales the Valleys programme area and East Wales programme area) and attracts match funding from HEFCW, the nine HEIs in Wales which deliver the programme and a small number of employers who host paid work experience.
- 5.2 In July 2018, Council was informed that WEFO had agreed additional ESF grant funding to extend the programme to 31 January 2022 ([HEFCW/18/65](#)). This was in recognition that there were indications that the programme was delivering the anticipated outcomes, including supporting a significant proportion of participants with a disability or work limiting health condition. The ESF grant agreed at that time was £6.3m, with a HEFCW budget agreed by Council of £3,105,600. The remaining funding was match funding from HEIs and employers.

## 6 Re-evaluation and extension of the programme to October 2022

- 6.1 WEFO are currently reviewing funded projects in order to ensure EU funding is committed and spent to the maximum level. They have agreed additional ESF grant to enable an extension to the GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience programme to a delivery end date of 31 October 2022. We are expecting formal approval of the extension from WEFO by the week ending 24 January 2020.
- 6.2 The re-evaluation of the programme includes an increase in the proportion of students targeted who have a disability or work limiting health condition, as to date 60% of the students supported have disclosed a disability and / or a work limiting health condition. The re-evaluation also includes formal agreement that we can support students estranged from their families as a new eligibility group.
- 6.3 WEFO have agreed approximately £542k additional ESF grant across the West Wales and the Valleys and the East Wales projects for the extension. If all HEIs and HEFCW spend to budget then we will require additional HEFCW budget of approximately £65k. Our experience of delivering ESF funded projects shows that it is unlikely that all partners spend to their allocated budget, so £65k is likely to be the maximum budget that would be required. It may even be possible that the programme can be delivered within the current HEFCW budget.

***Council is invited to note the extension to the programme and the potential implication on the HEFCW budget.***

## 7 Financial implications

- 7.1 As stated in 5.5, the extension of the programme may require additional HEFCW funding of a maximum of £65k from future academic year budgets. As part of our project management processes we monitor expenditure and we will continue to work closely with HEIs to understand their actual and likely future spend.

## **8 Communications implications**

- 8.1 When we have received formal approval from WEFO in the form of updated Funding Agreements, we will release a news item to announce the extension. This will sit alongside a series of HEFCW tweets, currently in train, which are aiming to promote the programme via case studies of students that have recently been placed on the GO Wales website ([www.gowales.co.uk](http://www.gowales.co.uk)).

## **9 Impact Assessment**

- 9.1 The issue set out in this paper do not need to be impact assessed by HEFCW as this paper is presented for information only. The GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience programme itself has been impact assessed.

## **10 Risk Assessment**

- 10.1 No risks to HEFCW have been identified from the issues presented in this paper.