

Friday 1 November 2019

Comment on Scottish Funding Council mental health support funding

Commenting on today's announcement by the Scottish Funding Council on the allocation of additional funding for mental health and wellbeing counsellors in colleges and universities in academic year 2019-20, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"The mental health and wellbeing of the college sector's staff and students is an extremely important matter and the sector has been working closely with the Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council, NUS Scotland and the university sector to enhance support in colleges. We welcome this increased funding and recognise it as a significant step in the right direction.

"Although substantial progress has been made in this area, there is still more to be done to ensure that all colleges – in collaboration with agencies such as NHS Scotland and the Third Sector – can quickly respond with the necessary and appropriate support for staff and students and at the point of requirement.

"We are pleased that the Scottish Government is committed to providing equity of access to counselling support across colleges and universities by the end of the four-year funding period, with the development of robust data analysis to examine levels of demand being prioritised, and that there is agreement for individual colleges and regions to have flexibility to use this additional resource to deliver enhanced counselling provision according to local circumstances."

Note to editor:

Link to SFC publication: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/news/2019/news-77391.aspx>

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