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Dear Review Committee

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REVIEW FOR LECTURERS IN SCOTLAND'S COLLEGES AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Learning for Sustainability Scotland¹ (LfSS - Scotland's UN recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development) and the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges² (EAUC)'s Scotland Office welcome the recognition that there is a need to ensure that the Professional Standards are fit for the requirements of current and future college lecturers and students, and reflect the changing contexts in education and society.

The Review provides an opportunity for the college sector to take a step forward, in-line with the school sector, and Scottish Government commitments³, when it comes to clearly embedding 'Learning for Sustainability' (Lfs) within the framework of the Professional Standards. Lecturers need to be confident in their knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing society and the natural environment, and the role they can play in helping learners to make sense of the world. The impact lecturing staff have on the values and career pathways of individual students is highly significant, and for an effective workforce for the future it is essential that learners leave Scotland's colleges with an understanding of the wider environmental, social and economic systems in which they play a role.

Through our involvement with the previous review in 2012 we are aware of the references to 'Sustainable Development Education' (SDE) in the current Standards. This review offers an opportunity to reflect conceptual advances in the field, to update the terminology, and to support all lecturers in embracing the principles and practices of sustainability in their work. Sustainability is increasingly a key focus for the Scottish Government, for example:

¹ <http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org>

² www.eauc.org.uk

³ The Learning for Sustainability report (2012) was accepted in full by Scottish Ministers, and from 2013 became Scottish Government Education policy:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ACE/OnePlanetSchools/LearningforSustainabilityReport>



Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfS Scotland) is Scotland's UN Recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development; hosted within the University of Edinburgh. The centre is an open network where members and partners come together to undertake collaborative projects, research and advocacy that push forward Learning for Sustainability practice and policy in Scotland. LfS Scotland's purpose is to harness the full potential of learning to create a flourishing, sustainable world.



- In 2014 Nicola Sturgeon was one of the first national leaders to sign up to the global UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030⁴.
- Scotland's new draft set of National Outcomes and a refreshed set of National Indicators (expected Summer 2018) are designed to track our commitment to delivering on the SDGs.
- Scotland is also one of the world's leaders when it comes to legislation on climate change, and much work has been done recently on Scotland's energy strategy and the skills and knowledge which might be needed for the transition to a low carbon future.

Education and learning have been recognised as central to developing sustainable behaviours and approaches in Scotland, such that:

- The Scottish Funding Council has a new section on Leadership in Environmental and Social Sustainability within the Outcome Agreement Guidance for 2018-19⁵. There is an expectation that "students develop the understanding of environmental and social sustainability required for the workplaces of tomorrow", leading to a need to embed sustainability within the learner journeys of all students within further education.
- Learning for Sustainability is the term now used within the Scottish education system to encompass Sustainable Development Education, Global Citizenship, and Outdoor Learning (in nature). LfS is an entitlement for all learners (3-18yrs) within Scotland, and all teachers and education professionals are expected to demonstrate Learning for Sustainability in their practice. Progress and future plans are set out in the Vision 2030+ Report⁶ (which closely integrates LfS with the SDGs) launched in September 2017 by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP. This report is particularly significant as it was accepted by three Scottish Ministers: Education, Sciences and Scotland's Languages; Environment; Climate Change and Land Reform; International Development and Europe.
- Since 2013 the General Teaching Council for Scotland's Professional Standards⁷ for teachers at every stage of their careers have learning for sustainability as one of three core themes (alongside values and leadership) needed to address the challenges of the 21st Century. Learning for Sustainability is embedded throughout the GTCS Standards.
- The school self-evaluation framework (How Good is Our School? 4th Edition, 2015⁸) includes 'increasing learning for sustainability' as a major theme.

In order to support all lecturers to embrace the principles and practices of sustainability in their work we suggest that the revised Standards for lecturers in Scotland's colleges:

- Align with those of other education professionals in identifying Learning for Sustainability (as above) as an underpinning theme.

⁴<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

⁵http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/guidance_sfcgd212017/SFCGD212017_College_Outcome_Agreement_Guidance_2018-19.pdf pp32-33

⁶Vision 2030+ report (2016) <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/res1-vision-2030.pdf>

⁷<http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-standards/learning-for-sustainability.aspx>

⁸https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks_SelfEvaluation/FRWK2_NIHedithGHIOS/FRWK2_HGIOS4.pdf

- Provide examples of indicative content throughout that embrace the values, skills and knowledge of Learning for Sustainability, including references to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (as outlined in the Vision 2030+ Report).

Learning for Sustainability Scotland and EAUC-Scotland would be very keen to work with you towards effectively embedding LfS in the revised Standards. We were closely involved in writing the Learning for Sustainability and Vision 2030+ Reports for Scottish Ministers, and with the development of the GTCS Professional Standards. We continue to advise Scottish Ministers on these issues and are currently working with GTCS in the review of their Standards.

Since 2015 Learning for Sustainability Scotland has been contracted by the British Council to deliver LfS professional learning opportunities for Scottish teachers, both blended learning and fully on-line. Building on this, both LfSS and EAUC-S are working in partnership with CDN to develop a support programme of both formal training and resources to enable college lecturing staff to effectively embed LfS within their teaching activities, which will enable a strengthening of LfS within the Standards to be realised in practice.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch for clarification on any issues, more information, or to request our feedback on the draft Standards.

Kind regards,



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