

Fourth European Quality Assurance Forum

Copenhagen, November 2009

A case study from QAA Scotland

Dr Harvey's hypothesis

- 'Innovation in learning can co-exist with, and indeed can be encouraged by, appropriate systems of quality assurance.....there is great value in the concept of a 'quality culture within institutions... this provides a very constructive discourse which places quality systems in a broader institutional and professional context'.

Presentation outline

- Does it work?
- How? – principles and practice
- Continuing challenges – work in progress

Does it work?

- Yes.....but work in progress
- Yes.....for us with our history and structure
- External evaluation

How?

- Principles based
 - Partnership
 - Students
 - Admits challenges in managing learning
 - Autonomy and accountability

Partnership in practice

- Design and development through QAA Scotland, Universities Scotland, NUS Scotland and Scottish Funding Council
- Monitoring through Quality Working Group, Universities Quality Forum, QAA Scotland Board, and SFC Committee
- Scottish Government

Involving students in practice

- Model of full participation
- Comprehensive representation within institutions
- Training and support for roles
- sparqs

Addressing challenges in managing learning

Enhancement Themes

- Assessment
- Meeting student needs
- flexible delivery
- first year experience
- research-teaching links
- graduates for the 21st century
- www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk

Addressing autonomy and accountability

- Institution-led subject review
- QAA-led review of institutions
 - Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR)
 - www.qaa.ac.uk

Work in progress

- Continuous external evaluation of the whole quality enhancement framework
- Areas for development include;
 - forgetting old habits
 - permeating the layers
 - deepening student involvement
 - managing expectations in a dynamic political context

Further dialogue

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Any blame however, rest with me, Professor Norman Sharp, sharpnorman@hotmail.com