

# **Widening Access The Role of scotland's Colleges**

**Jim Gallacher**  
**Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning**  
**Glasgow Caledonian University & University of Stirling**

# Scottish-English Comparisons Post Devolution

- **Funding**

- One funding body (SFC) for colleges and universities in Scotland – a more complex picture in England
- All funding(FE &HE) goes directly to colleges in Scotland – greater complexity in England

- **National Structures**

- Regionalisation and mergers 41 colleges in 2012 will have been reduced to 23 by end of 2013
- England
  - General FE 218
  - 6th Form 93
  - Land based 15
  - Art Design & Performing Arts 3
  - Specialist 10
- ONS reclassification in Scotland

# **Differing Approaches to Providing HE in Colleges**

- **HNC/Ds maintained in Scotland as major provision**
  - **Modernisation programme**
- **Foundation Degrees (FDs) introduced in England**
  - **Emphasis on meeting skills deficits, employer engagement and work based learning**
  - **Most validated by universities**
  - **About 50% of HE in colleges**
- **HNC/Ds and franchised degrees also in the English college sector**

# The importance of HE in Colleges in England and Scotland

- Colleges have an important role in HE provision in Scotland -HNC/Ds around 20% of all UGs
- HNC/D students make increasing contribution to Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)

	<b>HEIPR</b>	<b>HNC/Ds</b>
<b>2006/07</b>	<b>53.2%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	<b>56.1%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>

- Despite policy initiatives Parry et al (2012) refer to the 'low visibility and status' of HE in England

# **Similar ambiguities in Scotland & England**

## **Differing and potentially competing agendas for HNC/Ds and Foundation Degrees**

- Vocational education and training**
- Progression to bachelor degrees**
- Widening access**

# HNC/D students in Scotland's Colleges

<b>Year</b>	<b>Full-time</b>		<b>Part-time</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number s</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number s</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number s</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2001-02</b>	<b>26,471</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15,843</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42,314</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>30,945</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>6,436</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37,381</b>	<b>100</b>

# Foundation Degree students in English Colleges

Year	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	Number s	%	Number s	%	Number s	%
2001-02	2,530	59	1,795	41	4,325	100
2009-10	56,840	57	42,635	43	99,475	100

# **Progression from HNC/Ds and FDs**

- **HNC/Ds in Scotland 68% proceed to further study**
- **FDs in English FECs**
  - **65% of fulltime students proceed to further study**
  - **44% of part-time students proceed to further study**



# Social Background of Students in Scotland's Colleges

	Colleges		HEIs
	HE	FE	HE
Least deprived quintile	17%	12%	30%
2 <sup>nd</sup> quintile	17%	17%	24%
Middle quintile	20%	20%	20%
4 <sup>th</sup> quintile	22%	22%	15%
Most deprived quintile	24%	28%	11%

**SFC 2013**

**Only 30% of HNC/D students have minimum entrance qualifications for degree programmes**

- **Young full-time entrants to HE in English colleges from Low Participation Neighbourhoods (LPNs)**
- **Registered in HEIs 10.4%**
- **Registered in FECs 21.7%**

**Source HEFCE 2013**

# **Strengthening links between colleges and universities in Scotland**

- **SFC established Articulation Hubs in 2008**
  - £3m per annum for initial 5 years extended for a further 2 years
  - 5 Hubs based in the Post '92 universities
  - 1 in the Open University
  - Function of strengthening links between colleges and universities to facilitate progression and increase numbers of articulating students
  - Articulation defined as progression with full credit (1 year for HNC, 2 years for HND)
- **SFC Outcome Agreements also established ambitious target numbers for articulating students for Post '92 universities and financial penalties if these not met**

# **Scottish Government Policy**

- **2011 White Paper – Putting Learners at the Centre**
- **‘Efficient, flexible learner journeys’ and links to widening access**
- **Post 16 Act 2013**

# Percentages of former HN students entering different university sectors by level of credit awarded 2011-12

	Access %	Partial Credit %	Full Credit %
<b>Post 92 Universities</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>1960s Universities</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ancients</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Art/music colleges</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>2849</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>3099</b>

Source: National Articulation Database

# **SFC Additional Articulation Places 2013**

- **1020 additional funded places for articulation**
- **Partnerships between universities and colleges**
- **2+2 degree model – first 2 years HNDs in colleges – then 2 years in universities to complete degree**
- **Students registered with HESA as university students**
- **Students also to be enrolled in Associate Student schemes to provide additional support**
- **639 places allocated to Post'92 universities, only 26 to the ancient universities**

# Issues for Consideration

- **What is the impact of articulation hubs, additional places and outcome agreements on widening access – inclusion or diversion?**
- **How can the role of colleges in widening access be strengthened?**
- **How satisfactory are HNC/Ds or FDs in meeting the competing agendas they must address – is further reform required?**
- **What will be the longer term impact of recent Scottish Government policies?**
  - **Regionalisation and mergers**
  - **Reductions in college funding**
  - **ONS reclassification of colleges**