**SPARQs Case Study in Learner Engagement May 2012 – Learner Voice Conference**

**Cumbernauld College – Learner Voice Conference**

An annual conference is held in order to provide an opportunity for learners and staff to interact and to identify emerging issues relating to a particular theme. The conference takes place over a single afternoon, and involves around fifty learners and seven staff member facilitators.

In addition to matters arising from the theme of the conference, other issues may be identified, and one of the outputs from the event is an action plan, to implement improvements.

The focus of the 2012 Learner Voice Conference was based around the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence. Following a review of previous conferences and other specific learner engagement events, emphasis was put not only on the things that the college could do better, but also on facilitating a reflective experience which encouraged learners to identify the things that they could do better in order to improve their learning experience.

Prior to the event the delegates meet over a buffet lunch, and then the conference begins with an introduction and an ice breaker activity to get the learners talking to each other and breaking off into groups with others from different classes. They engage in interactive activities around strands from the main theme, and learners feed back to their peers as part of the main group.

Learners report having enjoyed the experience, and from the staff members’ point of view, this event provides an opportunity to engage in a two way dialogue on issues which have been identified as crucial to successful learning.

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