

The importance of students' associations to quality improvement and enhancement in colleges

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Themes

- *...explore the role that the students' association plays in the quality improvement and enhancement processes in college. Is the role limited to completing the learner engagement questionnaire once every four years in preparation for an external review by Education Scotland, or is there an ongoing role as influencers and 'co-evaluators of the learner experience'?*
- *What is needed to develop this role?*

Education Scotland

– who we are and what we do...

- Learn Teach Scotland (LTS)
- HMIE
- Positive Behaviour Team
- Professional Learning and Development team

Working with colleges: three key principles:

- **High quality learning:**
 - How well are learners progressing and achieving relevant, high quality outcomes?
 - How effective are the college's learning and teaching processes?
- **Learner engagement**
 - How well are learners engaged in enhancing their own learning and the work and life of the college?
- **Quality culture**
 - How well is the college led and how well is it enhancing the quality of its services for learners and other stakeholders?

Aspect reports

Annual engagement

visits

External review

...the principle of student engagement implies ... that colleges ... support the development of students as co-creators of their learning who take responsibility for their own learning ...and ... are involved in decision-making about their curricula, teaching and learning, and all aspects of the student experience.

- 'Final report of the Scottish Funding Council's Joint Quality Review Group', 2008

Learner engagement

- Learner representation
- Engagement between staff and learners
- Learners improving college services
- Supporting learners to enhance their own learning
- Plan and contribute to college activities
- Engage in community and external events
- Apply their skills for the benefit of the college and wider community.

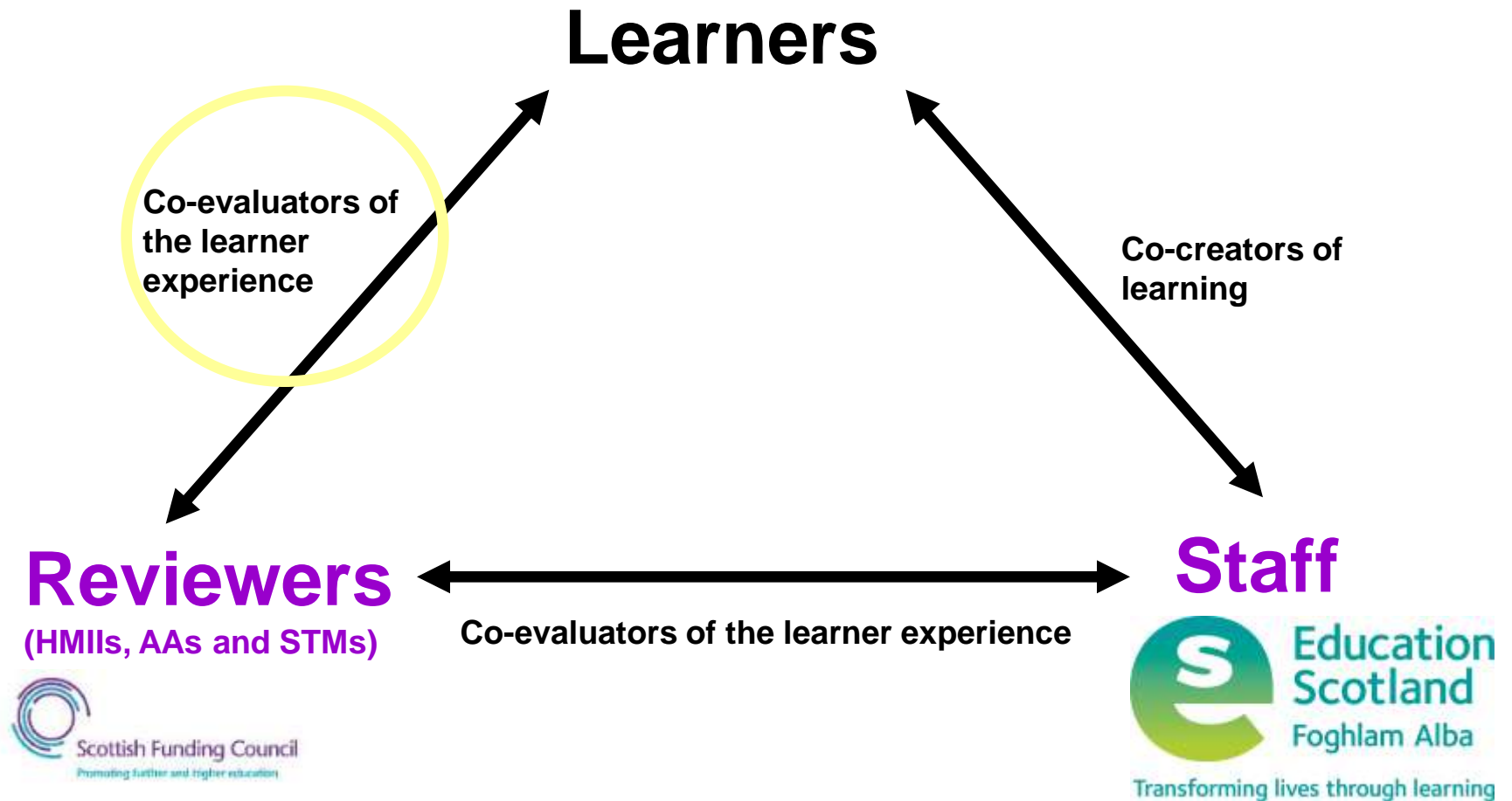
Learner engagement

- Influence and contribute to the shaping of learning and teaching approaches within learning activities
- Support each other in extending and enhancing their learning (peer review, peer teaching, buddying etc)

- **20 years ago teaching staff were meeting in course teams and using feedback from support staff and learners to evaluate quality and plan improvements**
- **10 years ago they were meeting in course teams with support staff and using feedback from learners to evaluate quality and plan improvements**
- **6 years ago they were meeting in course teams with support staff and learner reps to evaluate quality and plan improvements**
- **Now course teams comprise teaching staff, support staff and learners reps working together to evaluate quality and plan improvements**

- **Where next....**

Quality improvement and enhancement



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