



SCAPP Conference Programme

Celebrating Success
and Moving Forward
in a Changing
Education Landscape

16th May 2023, Carnegie Conference Centre, Fife College





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Conference Introduction

SCAPP's first conference will reflect on the success and challenges in Scotland's Widening Access and Participation sector over the past 30 months. We will explore what we have learned and achieved, what our priorities should be, and how practitioners continue to adapt and develop to support future thinking for widening access and participation within a changing education landscape, keeping the student experience at the heart of our work.

There will be opportunities throughout the day to network and connect with other practitioners and share practice, and we hope you will be able to commit to the full day's schedule of activities.

About SCAPP

Since 2019, SCAPP has worked in partnership to support the development of a sector wide community of practice for widening access and participation professionals. Much of SCAPP's activity has taken place within pandemic conditions, working with colleagues who have demonstrated resilience, creativity, flexibility and collaboration to achieve the ambitious widening access targets set by the Commission on Widening Access *A Blueprint for Fairness*.

As we look forward, SCAPP will be seeking sustainable and more financially independent ways to support our practitioners which deliver purposeful, valuable, impactful and affordable activity and to serve the widening access and participation professional community.



SCAPP Conference Programme

Time	Event
09:00	Arrival & registration Coffee, networking & foyer exhibition
09:40	Welcome Dr Stephanie McKendry, Deputy Director Student Experience - Access, Admissions and Progression, University of Strathclyde
09:50	Keynote Speaker James Dunphy, Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes, Scottish Funding Council
10:05	Keynote Speaker Professor John McKendrick, Scotland's Commissioner for Fair Access
10:20	SCAPP Progress and Plans Muriel Alexander, Development Manager, SCAPP Followed by awards ceremony for the SCAPP Accreditation Scheme
10:45	Coffee Break, networking & foyer exhibition
11:15	Workshop Session One (choice of 4) 1A. Re-imagining Transitions for Advanced Entry College Students 1B. The potential of university-led tutoring in high schools to increase confidence in pupils and make steps towards narrowing the attainment gap 1C. Armed Forces Education Briefing 1D. Student carer awareness and support
12:15	Lunch Break, networking & foyer exhibition
13:00	Question Time Panel Chair: Kirsty Conlon, Head of Learning and Teaching and Widening Access Policy, Universities Scotland Panel: Erica Russell-Hensens, Deputy Director, Student Interests, Access and Pathways, SFC; Iain Hawker, Vice Principal Quality and Academic Partnerships, Fife College; Jim Thewliss, General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland; Prof. John McKendrick, Scotland's Commissioner for Fair Access; Mairi McKinnon, LIFT OFF Programme Manager
13:45	Workshop Session Two (choice of 4) 2A. Professional Accreditation for Widening Access and Widening Participation Professionals 2B. WP Evaluation Matters: Building a Community of Practice to support Practitioners 2C. Improving access to HE for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland 2D. Diverse voices in quality: partnership and the student learning experience in the tertiary quality framework
14:45	Workshop Session Three (choice of 4) 3A. National Schools Programme: Pathways to Success 3B. Support and Provision for Care-experienced & Estranged Students within HE: How far have we come, and where are we headed? 3C. Preparation for Higher Education – developing student skills and capabilities 3D. Forth Valley College's Widening Participation Project – Enhancing the experience of transition into college for those from Widening Participation backgrounds
15:45	Closing remarks – Kenny Anderson and Muriel Alexander
16:00	Networking Event – catch up with colleagues over light refreshments
17:00	Networking Event ends



Biographies

Welcome, keynote speakers, and closing remarks:

Dr Stephanie McKendry, Deputy Director of Student Experience, University of Strathclyde

Dr Stephanie McKendry has over 20 years' experience in various teaching, learning and research roles in higher education. Since 2014, she has led widening access work at the University of Strathclyde and in 2019 brought together access and equality and diversity policy and activity in the institution. She is currently Deputy Director of Student Experience with a remit that covers access, equality, admissions and employability. She supported the Scottish Commissioner for Fair Access as Researcher/Implementation Advisor from 2016 to 2020, has been a member of two National Expert Think Tanks on fair admissions, sits on the Universities Scotland Admissions Working Group and the Scottish Government's Access Delivery Group. Stephanie is an editor of the Journal for Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning and led the award winning TransEDU research project exploring the experiences of trans and gender diverse applicants, students and staff.

James Dunphy, Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes, Scottish Funding Council

James Dunphy is the Scottish Funding Council's Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes. He is responsible for SFC's work on all aspects of learning provision, including widening access and inclusion; equality and diversity; skills and learning quality; and student experience.

James joined the Scottish Funding Council from Robert Gordon University (RGU) in November 2020. He held a number of roles at RGU and was its Director of Enhancement of Learning, Teaching before leaving.

From 2017 to 2020, James was a member of the board at Scotland's national Centre for Work Based Learning. He has also served as a member of the Policy Council of Aberdeen's Chamber of Commerce and also served on SFC's Access and Inclusion Committee.

Professor John McKendrick Scotland's Commissioner for Fair Access

Professor John H McKendrick was appointed Commissioner for Fair Access (to higher education) by the Scottish Government in January 2023. He is also co-Director of the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit in the Glasgow School for Business and Society at Glasgow Caledonian University. He is primarily concerned to inform the work of practitioners and campaigners beyond the academy who seek to tackle poverty in Scotland. He was co-editor of Poverty in Scotland 2021: Towards a 2030 Without Poverty? (CPAG) and writes a column in the Scottish Anti Poverty Review (Poverty Alliance's quarterly journal). He has published many reports, briefings papers and addressed a wide range of Third sector and local government events on issues pertaining to the eradication and amelioration of poverty in Scotland. He sits on the group of National Partners offering advice and support to local authorities and local health boards in relation to the preparation of their Local Child Poverty Action Reports. He is an external member of the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Programme Board and Education Scotland's Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme Board.



Kenny Anderson, Director, SWAP West

Scottish Wider Access Partnership, is a partnership of Colleges and Universities with the purpose of encouraging adults with no or few qualifications to return to education. Kenny Anderson is the Director of SWAPWest, managing a number of guidance and widening access projects that supplement the core work of SWAP.

SCAPP Staff:

Muriel Alexander, Development Manager, SCAPP

Muriel has worked across a variety of organisations including education, industry, enterprise and careers for over thirty years at a number of Scottish HEIs. Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning has always been at the heart of her work. SCAPP consolidates her experience within a practitioners' network to support the development and professionalisation of a strong widening access and participation community in Scotland and by doing this embed, enhance and support effective practice in Scotland.

As SCAPP's Development Manager, Muriel leads on all strategic and operational aspects of SCAPP to ensure its continued growth and development, visibility, governance and sustainability.

Laura Kwiatkowski, Learning and Development Coordinator, SCAPP

Laura has joined SCAPP on secondment from [LEAPS](#), a Widening Participation programme in South East Scotland. Laura has experience in Higher Education in Australia and the UK with previous roles in Student Recruitment and Events, Widening Participation, Student Support, and Programme Coordination. She also has diverse experience in Events, Festivals and Education projects across the UK, Australia and in the UAE.

At SCAPP she facilitates opportunities for members to share practice, build networks, and increase their knowledge and skills. Laura coordinates SCAPP MAPS (Mentoring for Access Practitioners Scheme), co-facilitates SCAPP's New Practitioner Network, and supports SCAPP's Working Groups.

Question Time Chair and Panel Members:

Kirsty Conlon, Head of Learning and Teaching and Widening Access Policy, Universities Scotland (Panel Chair)

Kirsty has almost twenty years of experience in Scottish Higher Education Policy. She is currently Head of Learning & Teaching & Widening Access Policy at Universities Scotland, which has included responding to the Commission on Widening Access. Kirsty previously worked for the Scottish Funding Council. Kirsty's undergraduate degree and doctorate are in chemistry.

Erica Russell-Hensens, Deputy Director, Student Interests, Access and Pathways, Scottish Funding Council

Erica is passionate about supporting students to access education and achieve their goals and has worked in the tertiary sector for many years. She started as a Student Officer before joining sparqs to develop their Associate Trainer programme and to deliver training herself. Erica then moved into student facing, programme development and leadership roles, working at two Universities in London. After almost a decade away Erica decided it was time to return to Scotland and she worked



at the Universities of Stirling and Dundee before joining the Scottish Funding Council to lead the new Student Interests, Access and Pathways team.

Iain Hawker, Vice Principal: Quality and Academic Partnerships, Fife College

Iain joined Fife College as a member of the Executive team in January 2017. Iain originally moved into tertiary education as a lecturer in computing and has accumulated over 30 years of experience in the college sector. His current role includes partnership working with businesses, universities and schools. Iain is Chair of the Regional Learner Passport Partnership. The Partnership consisting of six Colleges and eight Universities, aims to promote and create efficient and learner orientated routes to degree level study in and around Edinburgh and the surrounding South-East Scotland area.

Iain is an advocate for widening participation, articulation and linked pathways in the learner journey of the tertiary education sector.

Iain is an active member of the DYW Fife Board and First Chances Fife Governance Board – a widening participation programme in partnership with University of St Andrews for P7 to S6 pupils.

Jim Thewliss, General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland

Jim has worked in Scottish Secondary schools across the country for 40 years, the latter 18 of which were as Headteacher in Harris Academy in Dundee. During this time, he experienced widespread, fundamental and comprehensive change in Scottish education which had the underlying effect of making education and learning more relevant and accessible to all young people as well as making the system more progressive and aspirational. Jim also has two children who benefitted from their experience in the education system.

For the past 8 years Jim has led the National Professional Association which supports Senior Leaders in Scottish Secondary schools.

Mairi McKinnon, Programme Manager, LIFT OFF

Mairi McKinnon is the programme manager of LIFT OFF who delivers the Schools for Higher Programme (SHEP) in the Fife and Tayside region, funded by the SFC within their National Schools Programme. Mairi has been with LIFT OFF since 2011; progressing from a widening access practitioner role, into operational management and now strategic management. She is passionate about Higher Education, advocating for and supporting the voice of young people through her involvement in local and national steering groups. Prior to her roles with LIFT OFF, Mairi worked within the college sector supporting SWAP and articulation, on top of her lecturing commitments. She continues her learning journey through distance learning opportunities whilst working.



Workshop Session One (11:15 – 12:15)

1A. Re-imagining Transitions for Advanced Entry College Students

We all know about transition? Don't we? But have things changed in the post pandemic world? Is collaboration the future for effective transitions?

This workshop will give a brief introduction from the FE and HE sectors, as well as a brief summary of an ongoing HE Research project, before opening the floor to discussion:

- What transition support do your institutions currently offer to students considering articulation from College to University?
- Does that need to change in a post covid world?
- What effect will the cost-of-living crisis have?
- What impact will the financial constraints in the FE sector have?

Come and join us to start thinking about how we can all collaborate towards a new future for articulating student transitions between College and University and tell us how the SCAPP Articulation Working Group can support that vision.

Facilitators:

Dr Sally Middleton, Head of Access and Articulation, University of Aberdeen

With a long and wide-ranging career in the widening access sector, Sally now manages the Access & Articulation Team at the University of Aberdeen, leading on all areas of widening access, articulation and the support of vulnerable groups pre-entry and during transition. Sally was a member of the National Articulation Forum and takes a leading role in the sector in both articulation policy development and supporting other practitioners through the Joint (Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland) Articulation Group and as the co-chair of the SCAPP Articulation Working Group.

Lisa Baxter, University Partnerships Officer, Forth Valley College

Lisa Baxter is the University Partnerships Officer at Forth Valley College, responsible for various articulation and Association Student Scheme activities. Lisa is a member of the SCAPP Articulation Working Group.

Karen Cullen, College Partnership Manager, Queen Margaret University

Karen Cullen is the College Partnership Manager at Queen Margaret University, and looks after articulation and access routes, college partnership degrees and the transition and induction of students moving from FE to HE. Prior to QMU, Karen worked in the college sector, latterly as UCAS Coordinator for Stevenson College Edinburgh, and as the college based ELRAH Adviser (the SFC articulation project), which sought ways to develop, enhance and support articulation for students wanting to gain advanced entry to University. Karen is currently a member of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on Articulation with Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland, the SCAPP Articulation Network, and represents the HE sector on the SQA Next Gen Articulation, Progression and Grading Advisory Group.

Supported by:

Marie Anderson, Careers Manager, Glasgow Clyde College

Carole Mooney, Senior Outreach Officer - Colleges, Edinburgh Napier University

James Short, Lecturer, Maths & Numeracy, Dundee and Angus College



1B. The potential of university-led tutoring in high schools to increase confidence in pupils and make steps towards narrowing the attainment gap

The Enhanced Learning Tutoring Initiative (ELTI) was set up by Queen Margaret University in 2020 and has been working with high schools and community groups in East Lothian and Midlothian since then to engage eligible young people in subject-specific, one-to-one and small-group tutoring. There are three main sections to the workshop with opportunities for discussion throughout:

- A summary of ELTI to date, outlining the model of tutoring we have developed, successes we have celebrated, and challenges we have faced
- An exploration of the efficacy of university-led tutoring with reference to sector research and ELTI evaluations
- A presentation of a longer-term strategy and cross-sector collaboration.

This interactive session is designed to generate discussion about the potential for a similar approach to be adopted across Scotland.

Facilitators:

Lisa Vettese Cruden, ELTI Project Lead, Queen Margaret University

After graduating with an MA (Hons) in Italian and English Literature from the University of Edinburgh in 1998, Lisa completed a CELTA qualification and moved to Italy where she taught English. In 2001, she moved to Australia to work at Macquarie University designing foundation courses for Masters students. On returning to the UK, she worked in various FE and HE institutions teaching English for Academic Purposes. Whilst working at QMU she became interested in Widening Participation initiatives and moved into a role as an Academic Developer. This role included setting up the University's Peer Assisted Learning Scheme. She was seconded from this role in 2020 in order to establish the Enhanced Learning Tutoring Initiative.

Gill Turner, ELTI Project Strategic Lead, Queen Margaret University

Before graduating with a BA (OU) in 1982, Gill worked with the NHS and the Brewing industry. Thereafter, Gill worked in further education firstly at Telford College where she gained a TQFE qualification. Here Gill taught mainly media related subjects and also had an international remit to develop and manage mainly European-funded projects. In 2007, Gill moved to Newbattle Abbey College as the Curriculum Manager.

In 2021, she set up a Gaelic Development company and now works with councils across Scotland on Gaelic initiatives. In December 2022, Gill joined the ELTI team as the Strategic Lead looking to develop a future model for ELTI.

Claire Marsland, ELTI Project Coordinator, Queen Margaret University

After graduating with an LL.B (Hons) from the University of Edinburgh in 1999, Claire spent a number of years working in homelessness and substance misuse voluntary sector services. She gained a Pg Cert in Drug and Alcohol Studies from the University of Paisley in 2006 and in 2009 completed a Master of Social Work at the University of Edinburgh. Claire then spent a number of years working as a Social Worker in a statutory criminal justice setting. In 2020, she began tutoring with Queen Margaret University's Enhanced Learning and Tutoring Initiative (ELTI). In 2021, Claire joined the core ELTI team and now coordinates delivery of the project across Midlothian and East Lothian.



1C. Armed Forces Education Briefing

The briefing session is an opportunity for delegates to learn about the various opportunities for study in Further and Higher education for the armed forces community. Delegates will leave the session with a better understanding of how they can support members of the armed forces community decide on education routes during and after service.

Part 1 – Introduce ADVANCE which is the network of HE:FE institutions and learn how ADVANCE support the AF community to consider education as a viable option. Also gain an understanding of the various groups within the armed forces community and how they differ when considering education.

Part 2 – Introduce Military Skills & Qualification Discovery Tool developed in partnership with MoD and Skills Development Scotland. This tool allows serving personnel and service leavers to recognise the wealth of valuable skills and experience they have gained during their service and find out the comparable SCQF level of the qualifications taken in service.

Facilitators:

Claire Biggar (she/her), ADVANCE Co-Chair and Armed Forces Lead for Edinburgh Napier University

Claire Biggar joined Edinburgh Napier University in 2007 as the Executive Assistant to the Principal and is now the Staff Health & Wellbeing Consultant. She is the Public Engagement Lead for The Centre of Military Research, Education & Public Engagement. Claire was instrumental in encouraging the Principal to sign the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant in 2016, leading the university to be the first Scottish University to receive the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award in 2019 highlighting the commitment the university demonstrates to support the Armed Forces Community. Promoting education to the armed forces community as a viable option is a key commitment for ADVANCE.

Nicola Smith (she/her), Development Officer, SCQF Partnership

Nicola Smith is the Employer Engagement Lead at the SCQF Partnership. She helps employers to understand the wide range of qualifications available now in schools, colleges, universities, the workplace and the community, how to properly level job roles to the SCQF, and how you can recognise skills and experience at different SCQF levels, supporting wider and more inclusive recruitment. She is also working with the MoD and Skills Development Scotland to help veterans and service leavers recognise the valuable range of skills and experience gained during service and how to 'translate' qualification taken for Scottish civilian employers.



1D. Student carer awareness and support

Join colleagues from Edinburgh Young Carers and the Carers Trust (Scotland) to explore how the further and higher education sector can best support the needs of Student Carers.

A carer is anyone who cares (unpaid) for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. And students with caring responsibilities can face unique challenges when accessing and participating in college and university.

This interactive workshop will use discussion, case studies, videos and quizzes to consider:

- Current policy and legislation around carers (such as the Carers Act 2016)
- Types of caring roles
- The impact of caring
- How student carers can be supported when entering further and higher education.

This workshop will raise awareness and provide examples of good practice seen in college and universities across Scotland.

Facilitators:

Kelly Munro- National Education Officer, Primary and Secondary, Carers Trust Scotland

Kelly Munro started with Carers Trust Scotland in June 2019 as National Education Officer (Primary and Secondary). Kelly is leading the national primary and secondary strategic education, policy and partnership work in Scotland. Kelly has been working closely with Scottish Government, education stakeholders and young carer services to raise awareness of young carers in education across Scotland. Kelly has previously worked for the NHS and third sector organisations where she gained valuable experience working with unpaid carers including young carers.

Jenny Lewis, School Project Manager, Edinburgh Young Carers

Jennifer Lewis works with schools in Edinburgh to raise awareness of young carers and supports a network of Young Carer Coordinators in central/southeast Edinburgh schools. She also works with colleges and universities in Edinburgh. Jennifer worked as a primary teacher in London before moving to Scotland and has worked with young people since graduating.



Workshop Session Two (13:45 –14:45)

2A. Professional Accreditation for Widening Access and Widening Participation Professionals

This workshop will:

- A) Provide an overview of SCAPP's Professional Accreditation Scheme, and share the lessons and experiences of those participating in and evaluating the pilot in 2021-22.
- B) Provide an opportunity to discuss the Scheme and its value to widening access and widening participation professionals.

Topics for discussion will include:

- What would the Scheme need to offer to encourage you to take part?
- What support would you expect from your institution/organisation?
- What interest is there in the development of underpinning qualifications that could lead to professional accreditation? If yes, what should such qualifications cover and what SCQF Level should they be pitched at?

The discussion will be facilitated in two groups by Andrew and Alice. During the discussion, participants will be encouraged to post key points to the 'anon wall'. The facilitators will then use the last 10 mins to summarise key points.

Facilitators:

Andrew Comrie, Director of Fair Access, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Andrew is the strategic lead for the RCS' widening access policy and strategy. He is worked in Scottish education for 38 years in both the College and HE Sectors. Andrew is a specialist in widening access and before joining RCS, was Director of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Articulation Hub.

Andrew is a member of the SCAPP Steering Group and has contributed to the development of SCAPP's Professional Standards Framework and Accreditation Scheme for widening access and widening participation practitioners. He is also a Peer Reviewer for the scheme.

Alice Smith, Assistant Director, LEAPS

Alice has responsibility for the LEAPS Transitions Course and has worked in widening participation for approximately 20 years.

Alice sits on SCAPP's Steering Group having been part of the team who brought SCAPP together; she also chairs the Learning/Development group, and worked with Andrew to bring the Professional Standards Framework and the Professional Accreditation Scheme Pilot to life. A Fellow of Advance HE, Alice also mentors on the Edinburgh Teaching Award, and MAPS for SCAPP.



2B. WP Evaluation Matters: Building a Community of Practice to support Practitioners

The SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice was launched in December 2022 and comprises individuals and small project teams from across the Scottish WP sector who are carrying out WP evaluation and want to work together to share experiences and good practice, and to support each other to progress their own projects and produce learning for the sector.

This workshop will highlight the aims and what has been achieved by the Community of Practice to date, reflections from the facilitators and organisers as well as experiences of the community and their initial feedback.

In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, the issues around WP evaluation – What should be the priorities going forward? How can learning and capacity building best be maintained beyond the life of the short term (one year) Community of Practice? What further support and/or resource is required for WP practitioners and the sector to achieve high quality and consistency in WP evaluation?

Facilitators:

Alison Browitt, WP Research & Evaluation Officer, University of Glasgow

Alison Browitt is the WP Research and Evaluation Officer based in the central WP team at the University of Glasgow (UofG). Having been in this role for many years, Alison has experience of working with institutional data, carrying out mixed methods research and, with a remit that includes student retention and success, delivering activities to support student transitions into university as well as pilot WP projects. Her current focus is on evaluation of WP programmes at UofG and developing evaluation capacity across the sector, as co-facilitator of the SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice.

Jennie Younger, Communications and Information Officer, LEAPS

Jennie Younger is the Communications & Information Officer at LEAPS, a WP programme covering South East Scotland which also delivers the Schools for Higher Education Programme in this region as part of the SFC's National Schools Programme. In addition to leading on communications strategy and reporting requirements, she has an interest in evaluation – in particular supporting WP practitioners (herself included!) to evaluate WP initiatives. She is co-facilitator of the SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice.



2C. Improving access to HE for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland

This workshop aims to provide a space for conversation amongst those who have an interest in improving access to Higher Education for refugees and people seeking asylum. The workshop will be led by the University of Strathclyde's Access, Equality & Inclusion Service and will provide overview of Strathclyde's current support provision for forced migrants, focusing on successes and what has been learned.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss, in small groups, some of the key issues around improving access to HE for refugees and people seeking asylum in Scotland:

- How should the learner journey look for forced migrant students and applicants? Where are the current gaps in support?
- How should forced migrant students and applicants be supported by HEIs? Is a named contact the best option, or should an institution-wide approach be taken?
- What effect do social opportunities have on the HE journey of forced migrants? How can HEIs offer effective social opportunities to forced migrant students?

The workshop will be introduced by Gün Orgun, Coordinator for Scotland and Northern Ireland, City of Sanctuary.

Facilitators:

Lauren White, Widening Access Support Officer, University of Strathclyde

Lauren works within the University of Strathclyde's Access, Equality and Inclusion Service providing support for current students along with delivering school outreach activities in the local community. She is the Named Contact for two student groups: refugees and asylum seekers and Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) students.

Gün Orgun, Coordinator for Scotland and Northern Ireland, City of Sanctuary UK

Gün Orgun is the Coordinator for Scotland and Northern Ireland for [City of Sanctuary UK](#), a refugee sector charity which supports a UK-wide network of grass-roots groups with the aim of promoting a culture of active welcome for refugees and people seeking asylum in communities and in organisations. Since her appointment in January 2019, she has been focusing particularly on the Universities of Sanctuary initiative, and enjoying working with colleagues in the higher education sector in Scotland, with the objective of making Scottish Universities more actively welcoming of refugees and people seeking asylum.



2D. Diverse Voices in Quality: partnership and the student learning experience in the tertiary quality framework

Student engagement will be strengthened in new quality arrangements for colleges and universities from 2024, in two key ways. Firstly, an updated student learning experience model will be at the heart of conversations between staff and students about enhancing learning and teaching, and secondly a new partnership model will provide a framework for understanding students' roles in quality. At a time of continued change, it is important that all students' voices are heard through these two models, and this underlines the importance of widening access in such engagement.

This workshop will introduce the two new student learning experience and partnership models, and outline the ways in which the experiences of students from widening access and participation pathways can play a central role in enhancing learning. It will give participants a chance to explore the models and reflect on the conversations they can support and facilitate with students and other staff colleagues about widening access and participation.

Facilitator:

Simon Varwell (He/him), Senior Development Consultant, sparqs

Simon he is the lead for institutional support at sparqs (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland), where his responsibilities include institutional capacity building and staff development. He has presented and published widely on student partnership, and has worked closely with SCAPP on various initiatives at the interface of widening access and student engagement. He is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has a Masters in student engagement from the University of Winchester.



Workshop Session Three (14:45 – 15:45)

3A. National Schools Programme: Pathways to Success

In June 2021, SFC published the [Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability](#), recommending the development of a National Schools Programme to widen access to Higher Education to students in the Senior Phase.

The National Schools Programme works closely with experts across universities, colleges, and schools to unify existing, successful projects into a cohesive national approach based around 4 key pillars:

1. Impartial advice and guidance,
2. An experiential visit to a Higher Education Institution,
3. Skills development and bridging programmes to prepare pupils for success, and
4. Specialist support for students interested in high demand professions.

At this session the SFC will present an update on the progress of the National Schools Programme in its first 21 months and facilitate small group discussions to discuss:

- How partners can support and benefit from the programme
- Influencing the future evolution of the programme
- Enabling change and making the best use of the expertise in the sector
- How the programme can be informed by evidence-based success and how it can demonstrate its success for students and stakeholders

Facilitators:

Fiona Burns (she/her)– Assistant Director, Student Interest, Access and Pathways, Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

Fiona has worked at the SFC since 2000 in various roles including student support, college funding, mergers, skills and strategic projects. She currently works as an Assistant Director in the Student Interest, Access and Pathways team. The aim of the team is to directly impact on improved outcomes for students by understanding, embedding, protecting and enhancing the lived student experience. Areas of current responsibility include progressing widening access ambitions and supporting funded programmes such as the National School Programme.

Mary Macgowan (she/her)– Administrative Officer, Student Interest, Access and Pathways, Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

Mary joined SFC in January to support the work of the National Schools Programme. Recently arrived from Canada, Mary has previously worked in stakeholder engagement and quality improvement in resource management and health care.



3B. Support and Provision for Care-experienced & Estranged Students within HE:

How far have we come, and where are we headed?

This session will begin with reflection upon the significant developments that have taken place in the past 10 years, in terms of the support in place for care-experienced and estranged students within Higher Education in Scotland. The fact that there is now a strong and reliable standard of provision in place at Scottish universities and colleges, and across the sector as a whole, will be noted as a cause for celebration. Nonetheless, there is still much that can and should be done in this area.

The second part of the session will begin with a brief overview of the University of Glasgow's plans to progress their own support and provision for care-experienced and estranged students, and participants will then be encouraged to reflect upon and discuss how we might best build upon recent successes, at an institutional level, collaboratively, and within the policy landscape.

Facilitator:

**Dr Dan Keenan, Care-experienced & Estranged Student Support Coordinator,
University of Glasgow**

Dan has worked within the University of Glasgow's Widening Participation Team for over ten years; as a Development Officer, then as an Articulation Officer, and now as Team Lead for UofG's adult returner and post-school pathways work. Throughout this time, Dan has been the named point of contact at the University for care-experienced and estranged students. He has chaired the **Care-experienced, Estranged and Student Carers, West Forum** since 2014, and contributes regularly to various national fora, such as the SFC's **Care-Experienced National Policy Group** and the **StandAlone Stakeholder Group**.



3C. Preparation for Higher Education – developing student skills and capabilities

Preparation for Higher Education (Prep for HE) has been a mainstay of SWAP access programmes. In 2020 Prep for HE was re-developed by the SWAP team with feedback from tutors and students. The re-development focussed on developing a student’s social, personal and learn to learn skills. Broadening the approach from study skills to considering a more holistic approach to preparing for degree and HNC study.

The new Prep for HE modules utilised the European framework for personal, social, and Learning to Learn Key competences (LifeComp). The new materials also looked to develop our work on using the student voice and experience, as well as a breadth of digital techniques.

The workshop will share the re-development experience, feedback and what has been learned from the approach with participants having an opportunity to share their practice.

Facilitators:

About SWAPWest

Scottish Wider Access Partnership, is a partnership of Colleges and Universities with the purpose of encouraging adults with no or few qualifications to return to education.

Kenny Anderson, Director, SWAPWest

Kenny Anderson is the Director of SWAPWest, managing a number of guidance and widening access projects that supplement the core work of SWAP.



3D. Forth Valley College's Widening Participation Project – Enhancing the experience of transition into college for those from Widening Participation backgrounds

The Widening Participation Project (WPP) is a 2-year project funded jointly by The Robertson Trust and Forth Valley College.

Students from WP backgrounds constitute approximately 40% of annual enrolments at FVC. However, as per the trend across the FE sector, retention and achievement rates for these students remain consistently lower than those of their peers.

The WPP is exploring the transition journey and how it is experienced by these students. Garnering a rich understanding of the impact the transition process can have on outcomes will help shape the introduction of a robust, standardised and strategic transition process that supports the best start to the student journey at FVC for all students regardless of background or circumstance.

Join the WPP team to hear more about the project aims and the methods being used to achieve those aims. Learn about where the project concept came from, the advantages of working with an external funder, and an open discussion of the primary challenges faced.

Facilitators:

Sarah Tervit, Widening Participation Coordinator, Forth Valley College

Sarah has 17 years working in Further & Higher Education, occupying a variety of roles, largely with a student support focus. Sarah was the driving force behind the Time4Me Mentoring Programme – a partnership project between The Robertson Trust and Forth Valley College. Time4Me is an enhanced transition activity for students from WP backgrounds entering FE for the first time, which has been found to improve retention and achievement rates. Sarah continues to coordinate Time4Me, whilst now leading the Widening Participation Project.

Anna Vogt, Head of Inclusion & Student Services, Forth Valley College

Anna joined Forth Valley College in 2017 to manage the Learning Support team. She became the Head of Inclusion and Student Services in August 2020.

Prior to joining FVC, Anna worked in Human Resources. The move from Human Resources to Learning Support was prompted by her interest in equality and diversity and widening access. Anna is fundamentally committed to the ethos behind Further Education and its essential role in ensuring education is accessible for all.

Anna is responsible for the Learning Support, Support and Guidance and Learning Services teams as well as leading on FVC's strategic equality and diversity; widening participation and safeguarding work.



Foyer Exhibitors

Delegates will have an opportunity to browse foyer exhibitors during registration, morning coffee break and lunch.

- ADVANCE
- The Hub for Success
- IntoUniversity
- Pathways
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- Who Cares? Scotland
- Universities of Sanctuary

Travel Information

The address for **Carnegie Conference Centre** is **Halbeath Road, Dunfermline, Fife, KY11 8DY**

The nearest **train station** to the venue is Queen Margaret Dunfermline. It is a 15-minute walk from this station to the Carnegie Conference Centre.

Alternatively, delegates may wish to take a taxi from the Dunfermline Town Train Station.

Dunfermline Taxi Numbers:

Travel 24/7 Taxi: 01383 444 444

365 Travel: 01383 660 286

Abbey Taxis: 01383 735 555

Crossford Taxis: 01383 733 333

You can find detailed travel information for those driving, and directions to the Carnegie Conference Centre [here on their website](#).

Ample **parking** is available at the conference centre and is free to all delegates.

If you are requiring **accommodation** before or after the event, the closest commercial hotels* are:

Holiday Inn Express Dunfermline: Halbeath Road, Dunfermline, KY11 8JH

Travelodge Dunfermline: Kingseat Road, Halbeath Junction, Halbeath, Dunfermline, KY11 8RY

Premier Inn Dunfermline: 4-12 Whimbrel Place, Fife Leisure Park, KY11 8EX

*Please note, SCAPP and Carnegie Conference Centre have no affiliation with these hotels.

If you are travelling with **luggage**, venue staff at Carnegie Conference Centre will be able to secure this for the duration of the event.

Catering and refreshments

SCAPP are pleased to provide refreshments and lunch to all conference delegates, free of charge.

Please note any dietary requirements on the registration form, prior to the event.

There are water refill stations available throughout the venue, and we encourage you to bring a **refillable water bottle**.



Event Photography

Please be aware there will be an event photographer documenting this event. These images may be used by SCAPP for future marketing purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed, please let the SCAPP Team know at the registration desk on the day or on scapp@stir.ac.uk.

Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi will be available to all delegates at the Carnegie Conference Centre.

Social Media

Please engage with SCAPP on twitter [@ScappScot](https://twitter.com/ScappScot) using the hashtag #SCAPPConference

Questions?

If you have any questions about this event, please contact scapp@stir.ac.uk