

Change and Challenge: Responding to Every Child Matters

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St. Martin's College

Every Child Matters
Change For Children



St Martin's College
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Just Like Surfing?



- Unsure of what's around us (in the water)
- A sense of uncertainty and danger
- Not always in control – can't hold back the tide
- Tendency to cling to our (professional) boards
- Getting wet can be fun...

...and be beneficial!!

St. Martin's: An ECM Overview

- Broad Children's Services portfolio
 - Teacher education, social work, youth work, EYP, Health (school nurses / health visitors) and extended provision
- Agenda crosses 3 faculties (and multiple schools)
- Structures / systems have tended towards silo based planning and delivery

The Challenge

- Multi-dimensional
 - Reform and culture change
- Awareness raising
 - Every Child Matters and its (potential) implications for workforce development
- 'Fitness for purpose' in a changing context
 - Workplace time-lag
- Engagement
 - National, regional, sub-regional

Our Approach

- Dean's steering group / ECM working gp
- Appointment of ECM / YM Project Manager
- Module development
 - Staff, students, external workforce, ESCALATE
- Academic programme development / CPD
 - Validation guidance / common core
 - New opportunities (EYP, FD HEFCE funded)
- Research appointments and subgroup
- Pro-active engagement / partnership approach



Introducing Every Child Matters to the Higher Education Sector

- Two distinct perspectives:
 - How HE courses and programmes can respond to ECM / YM agenda
 - How ECM agenda impacts on the student experience within HE (Every Student Matters)
- Aims and learning outcomes of module intent on delivering these two key perspectives
- Modules developed by multi-disciplinary team
 - Collaboration, coordination, consistency

Delivering the Module

- 3 half day sessions
- Offered to all staff (academic and support) across 3 NW campuses
 - 240 staff participants (+ approx. 1000 on associated modules)
- Assessment integrated into taught sessions
 - Personal action planning and evidence of practice changes
- Attendance and participation is key
- Diverse teaching and learning environment
 - Case study, multimedia, self-reflection / audit

Module Focus

- Introduction to history and policy context
- Key features of ECM / YM
 - Five outcomes
 - Common core of skills and knowledge
 - Multi-agency working and information sharing
 - Children's Services / Extended Schools
 - Lead professional
 - Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
 - In context of course content and meeting the needs of the Children's Workforce
 - Through the lens of HE sector

Emerging Outcomes

- Increased awareness and engagement
- Dawning relevance
 - This is about core business
- ECM community of practice
 - New opportunities for cross-faculty development
- Re-engagement with learning
- Highlighted issues of cross-faculty collaboration

Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Supporting inter-professional learning, post-awareness level
- Mapping professional standards to the Common Core
 - How far do we / are we expected to go?
- Risk of losing something fundamental
 - Salad not a soup
- Keeping updated and engaged in a rapidly changing environment
 - Rhetoric versus reality (e.g. extent of lead professional role)

Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Problem in using ECM to drive institutional change, even when it highlights the needs
- Responding to field's needs / demands
 - As partners, not simply providers
- Critical engagement
- 'Future proofing'
 - ... Excellence in Children's Services / Workforce...

...Every Child Does Matter

Contact

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