

## Summary report of the consultation on *Chapter B4: Enabling student development and achievement* of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education

This report summarises responses received to the consultation on *Chapter B4: Enabling student development and achievement*<sup>1</sup> of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which ran between 31 October 2012 and 3 January 2013. It provides an outline of who contributed to the consultation, and some of the key themes raised.

### Event attendance

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) ran three events as part of this consultation, in Edinburgh (21 November 2012), Cardiff (26 November 2012) and London (28 November 2012). The main purpose of the events was to support higher education providers, students and other interested parties in formulating their responses to the consultation.

The table below shows attendance at the three events by organisation type.

	Higher education institutions	Further education colleges	Private providers	Sector bodies and PSRBs	Total
Edinburgh	17	2	2	0	<b>21</b>
Cardiff	26	1	2	4	<b>33</b>
London	49	2	3	1	<b>55</b>
					<b>109</b>

Further information on the consultation events, including presentations and a summary of the feedback from delegates, can be found at [www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/quality-code/Pages/B4-events.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/quality-code/Pages/B4-events.aspx).

### Written responses

A total of 91 written responses were received to the consultation. The table below analyses respondents by organisation type.

Higher education institutions	Further education colleges	Private providers	Sector bodies and PSRBs	Individual	Total
71 (78%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	11 (12%)	5 (6%)	<b>91</b>

<sup>1</sup> The consultation draft of *Chapter B4* was titled *Supporting student achievement*.

## **Key areas of interest**

Respondents were generally supportive of the content of the Chapter, but highlighted a number of areas where further clarification or explanation might be helpful. These points were taken into account in preparing the final version of the Chapter.

### **Scope, approach and title**

- Greater clarity is needed on the remit of the Chapter, in relation to QAA's remit.
- The holistic and inclusive approach taken by the Chapter was welcomed, but needed to be balanced by the level of detail given.
- The Chapter could be clearer that it is about enabling all students to develop their potential, rather than just supporting those at risk of failure.
- With this in mind, the title could use 'enabling' rather than 'supporting'; the title could also reflect the fact that a higher education experience should be about more than just 'achievement' at the end of a period of study.
- Greater emphasis could be placed on how partnership working could help to achieve the aims of the Chapter, between academic departments and professional services, and between higher education providers and students.

### **Expectation and Indicators**

- 'Learning objectives' is not the correct phrase; the value of higher education should be seen more broadly as about academic, personal and professional potential.
- The Chapter as a whole needs refocusing away from the 'traditional' model of the student experience to ensure it encompasses all students.
- There could be more reference to the need for students to engage with the opportunities provided, and of the responsibility on the higher education provider to ensure students are aware of this.
- There are a number of instances where two or more Indicators could be combined to make the Chapter more focused.