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REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

Subject: BCSA Update Paper November 2021	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: Amy Brydon	**Date:** 23/11/2021

Purpose:

Linked to Strategic Ambition: Proactively engage with our community and stakeholders to ensure our practice reflects their needs

Performance Measures: Engaged & empowered staff and student body

Linked to Strategic Risk Register: New Risk (outwith themes)

New Risk Commentary:

Executive Summary:

Overview of engagement activities based on BCSA's operational themes;

- Theme 1 – Equality & Inclusion
- Theme 2 – Representation
- Theme 3 –Community
- These 4 – Mental Health & Wellbeing

Recommendation: For information

Previous Committee Approvals: N/A

For publication ☐	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☒

BCSA Update Report

Nov 2021

Operational Theme 1: Equality & Inclusion

- Supported Movember (Men's Health Month) through a series of presentations from 'Andy's Man Club'. During the session, powerful examples of lived experience were shared and the benefits of Andy's Man Club, a nationwide male talking group, were explained. A recording of the session will be made available to students and staff in due course.
- 35 Wellbeing Reps have been recruited with training facilitated by BCSA and the colleges Mental Health team. Training provides students with the confidence and knowledge to signpost students to relevant support services and to advocate for student wellbeing.

Operational Theme 2: Representation

- Student Officers are regularly meeting with students through a series of student engagement activities
- A newly elected Vice President at Newtown is a positive addition to the team, providing important representation for one of our smaller campuses
- A total of seven Student Officers have been elected this year, all of which are voluntary posts.
- Student Officer training delivered in November with objectives identified for each Student Officer
- Student Experience Committee took place in October with good representation from staff and students. A range of themes were discussed including quality of induction, communication between staff and students, and college facilities. Positive outcomes included agreeing to implement accessible toilets for transgender and non-binary students across all campuses, the creation of a student working group to support development of induction activities and the introduction of digital workshops for mature students.

Operational Theme 3: Community

- A series of online student events have been arranged, led by the Student President
- LGBTQ+ Officer exploring opportunities to engage with the LGBTQ+ student community
- BCSA Amigos – a student group established to facilitate connections between students finding it challenging to make friendships at college
- With Wellbeing Reps now in place, they will provide feedback to BCSA in relation to student wellbeing and suggestions to enhance the sense of community on college campuses

Operational Theme 4: Mental Health and Wellbeing

- BCSA staff attended Mental Health First Aid training
- 'It's Not Weak to Speak' campaign launched in November, delivered in partnership between BCSA, student services and construction students. A series of wooden male figures will be placed across all campuses raising awareness for the importance of men talking about their mental health.
- Student Mental Health Agreement has been finalised and will be approved at SLT