

## Student Protection Plan

**Provider's name:** Kendal College

**Provider's UKPRN:** 10003558

**Legal address:** Milnthorpe Road, Kendal LA9 5AY

**Contact point for enquiries about this student protection plan:** Richard Evans (Vice Principal Kendal College)

### Student protection plan for the period 2022-Present

#### **1. An assessment of the range of risks to the continuation of study for your students, how those risks may differ based on your students' needs, characteristics and circumstances, and the likelihood that those risks will crystallise**

'The risk that the provider as a whole is unable to operate is very low because our financial performance is designated by the ESFA as good and is predicting a surplus of 3%. The Governing Body has robust plans for addressing a situation where the College is unable to operate, which include shared services and merger with another institution. However, at this time the risk of the College being no longer able to operate is considered to be extremely low. The College does not, and does not intend to apply to, hold degree awarding powers. The College has 30 years' experience of teaching Higher Education and in this time has never been unable to complete any courses and allow students to finish their course. The College has never had validation removed on any Higher Education programme. There are currently no intentions to reduce any of our locations or to close any of our departments delivering subject areas. Should any such considerations be made in the future this would be a planned exit and, the College has committed to "teaching out" existing students. The majority of Higher Education courses are validated by Uclan. There is an extremely low risk that validation will be lost for any of the courses. Our external examiner reports identify no concerns, our data is good and HEFCE agreed full confidence in the college at our last annual review. HNC/HND are validated by Pearson and the College has successfully undergone all its annual external moderation visits. All courses are delivered at the Milnthorpe site and this site will be available in 22-23. There are no plans for the College to cease trading from this site. The College commits to "teaching out" all students, seeing them to the end of their course currently registered on a course in 22-23. This ensures that any students with protected characteristics will be able to continue on the course and location of their choice. The College does not deliver highly specialised programmes and since Higher education is delivered by suitably qualified permanent members of staff who also teach on other types of programme, the possibility of lack of delivery staff is minimised. There are no programmes delivered that rely solely on one member of staff, therefore, the risk of being unable to deliver courses because of lack of teaching staff is extremely low. There is a very low risk of industrial action. There has been one incidence of industrial action taken at the College within the last 5 years. Industrial relations are good. The greatest risk to delivery of courses published on our website is due to low student recruitment, and this is a high risk. However, this is mitigated by our system. We inform learners during May where we feel courses may be a risk of not starting. Courses at greatest risk are cancelled by 15th May, where courses may still recruit we keep prospective students informed of the situation with our final day for cancellation being 17th August. The cycle for applications at Kendal College is relatively late and the cancellation date reflects offering the opportunity for recruitment including A level results and clearing. Kendal College has been judged by Ofsted as providing a good level of independent advice and guidance and this is available where any prospective student is unable to undertake the course of their choice. The vast majority of our students are local and do not use accommodation. Many of them would not apply to other institutions. We do run courses on very small numbers (8 and above) and thus courses are only cancelled where very few applications are received. Where a course commences we guarantee to provide the second year (and third year for part time) to students to allow them to complete the award

for which they originally registered. In 30 years of delivery this has always been achieved. Kendal College fully complies with the Equality Act of 2010. We will consider protected characteristics whenever we are unable to continue to deliver a course. As we committed to teach out our students this approach best meets the needs of a variety of students as they can continue on the course of their choice, with the support agreed. When a course does not run due to insufficient applications we offer advice and guidance from trained advisors who will consider any implications for those applications with protected characteristics. For example, where waiting a year to commence a course at Kendal College might affect the ability to access student loans due to age. An assessment has been completed for all programmes delivered during 22-23 at Kendal College

## 2. The measures that you have put in place to mitigate those risks that you consider to be reasonably likely to crystallise

<i>Course</i>	<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
FD Children, Young People and their Services (validated by UCLan)	<b>Student Recruitment</b>  This course will not be withdrawn due to student recruitment. There is a commitment by the College that the 2nd year of FD will be delivered irrespective of numbers. 2. Inability to provide suitable lecturing staff 3. Loss of Validation and lack of quality	1. Delivered for 15 years and has run every year with good recruitment  2. Varied teaching team including external specialists, so there is no likelihood of insufficient staffing.  3. Periodic course review in 2020. Excellent reports from external moderators and close scrutiny of quality. Excellent student feedback with high levels of satisfaction.
BA top-up Children, Schools and Families (validated by UCLan)	<b>Student Recruitment</b>  This course will not be withdrawn due to student recruitment in 22-23. There is an extremely low risk that the top-up may not be available in future years.  2. Inability to provide suitable lecturing staff  3. Loss of Validation and lack of quality There is an extremely low risk of losing validation in 22-23	1. Student recruitment is good for the top-up in 22-23. For students who may want to progress in future years if Kendal College is unable to offer the top-up post 2023, students are able to top-up at the awarding university Uclan.  2. Varied teaching team including external specialists, so there is no likelihood of insufficient staffing. Successfully delivered for many years with no quality issues.  3. Periodic course review in 2020. Excellent reports from external moderators and close scrutiny of quality.

<p><i>FDS Sc British Animal Management and Wildlife Rehabilitation</i></p>	<p>1: This course will not be withdrawn due to student recruitment. There is a commitment by the College that the 2nd year of FD will be delivered irrespective of numbers.</p> <p>2. Inability to provide suitable lecturing staff</p> <p>3. Loss of Validation and lack of quality</p> <p>4 Inability to provide specialist resources</p>	<p>1. Student recruitment is good for in 22-23. The college is committed to completing the two year programme irrespective of student numbers proceeding to year two of the programme.</p> <p>2. Varied teaching team including external specialists, so there is no likelihood of insufficient staffing. Successfully delivered for many years with no quality issues.</p> <p>3. Periodic course review in 2020 indicated no substantial issue. Board scrutiny upheld academic standards. There is ongoing close scrutiny of quality of teaching and learning.</p> <p>4: The College continues to maintain its Animal rescue centre and veterinary licence. Patients are sourced from local charities including the regional RSPCA network which secures a supply of patients, though particular cases cannot be planned. The college is committed to take all reasonable measures to maintain its RCVS status for the duration of the programme and would only be subject to a review of this if all staff with relevant professional status left the college. In this case recruitment would place relevant qualification/s as an essential criterion to maintain RCVS status.</p>
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<i>HNC/D Engineering</i>	<b>Student recruitment</b>  1.This course will run in 22-23. Inability to provide suitable lecturing staff.  2.The risk of not being able to provide suitable staff is higher for this course than any other at the College. This is due to the difficulty in recruitment should current members of the team resign. 3. Loss of Validation and lack of quality There is an extremely low risk of losing validation in 22-23.	There is currently sufficient staff planned for 2022. The College has built up effective relationships with relevant agencies should there be any unforeseen emergencies.  3. Validation and lack of quality This course is validated by Pearson and the annual moderation visits since 2017 have taken place with approval to continue delivery.
<i>HNC/D Business</i>	1: <i>This course will not be withdrawn due to student recruitment. There is a commitment by the College that the 2nd year of FD will be delivered irrespective of numbers.</i> 2. <i>Inability to provide suitable lecturing staff</i> 3. <i>Loss of Validation and lack of quality</i>	1. <i>Student recruitment is consistent with a full taught programme offer. The college undertakes to complete the course in full for all students.</i>  2. <i>Varied teaching team including external specialists, so there is no likelihood of insufficient staffing. Successfully delivered for many years with no quality issues.</i>  3. <i>Course review in 2020 did not identify significant issues to course viability.</i>

**3. Information about the policy you have in place to refund tuition fees and other relevant costs to your students and to provide compensation where necessary in the event that you are no longer able to preserve continuation of study**

Please see attached Higher Education refund and compensation policy. This is now available on our website. We assess the likelihood as extremely low of the College being unable to deliver all our programmes to an appropriate standard and to programme completion in 2022-23. As HE income constitutes only 6% of the College's income the numbers of students affected, should any programme not run to completion the compensation total (even at full-fee cost) would also be low and will easily be covered by our current reserves/overdraft facilities.

#### **4. Information about how you will communicate with students about your student protection plan**

We will publicise our student protection plan to current and future students by including this on our new website to be launched in by July 7th 2018

We will ensure that staff are aware of the implications of our student protection plan when they propose course changes by annual training at our Higher Education forum meetings and by our system that any such changes can only be made with the direct approval and involvement of the relevant Head of Schools, who are fully conversant with the refund and compensation plan, the requirements of the CSA Act

We will review our student protection plan annually in April through our Senior Leadership and Management Team meetings.

Our students will be involved in our review by the higher Education student representative receiving the proposed plan and given feedback from their groups.

We will inform our students if there are to be material changes to their course as early as possible but by 17th August for changes made before the commencement of the course.

We will give students a minimum of 28 days' notice when we need to make material changes to their course related to hour or days of delivery, although we expect the likelihood of the need to make such changes is extremely low.

If we need to implement the measures in our student protection plan the Director of Curriculum and Quality and the relevant Head of school will meet with all relevant students collectively and individually.