



Governance and Policy Report 2020

Charity status

- This year HELOA made a successful application to become a charity in Scotland. Going forward HELOA will now be following the reporting requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
- HELOA had indicated to the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland that it is our intention to register as a charity in Northern Ireland. We are currently awaiting an invitation from the commission to progress with the application.

Risk register

- The HELOA Executive have created a risk register to ensure that known risks are mitigated against and contingency plans are identified. The mitigated risks include a decrease in income, cancellation of training events, constitutional breaches, and partnership breakdowns.
- The risk register will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Elections

- This year HELOA have instigated blind voting in elections to ensure that each candidate is evaluated based on the merits of their nomination form.
- National elections have been run for the posts of UK Vice Chair (Groups), UK Vice Chair (Partnerships), and UK Vice Chair (Communications).
- 81 out of 145 member institutions voted in the UK Vice Chair (Groups) election. At the time of writing, the Partnerships and Communication elections are ongoing so a verbal update on the number of voting institutions will be provided at AGM.

Strategy

- The term of HELOA's 2018-20 strategy has been extended by six months to allow the UKC more time to fulfil its aims. This additional time has been necessitated by the extraordinary circumstances created by Covid-19 and the unforeseen work the UKC has undertaken to support members and maintain the financial security of HELOA. Nevertheless, good progress continues to be made against the strategy with most goals already achieved.

- UKC will develop HELOA's 2021-23 strategy in the new year.

Joanna Marchant
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