



UK CENTRE FOR

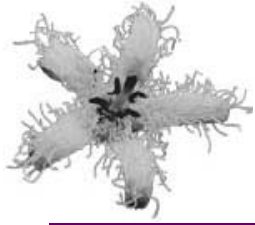
bioscience



The UK Centre for Bioscience and the Higher Education Academy

Organisation, Relationships and Activity

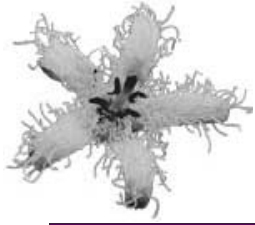
Supporting teaching in higher education to improve student learning across the Biosciences



Higher Education Academy - Mission

- To help institutions, discipline groups and all staff to provide the best possible learning experience for their students



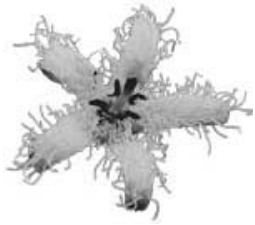


Higher Education Academy - Funding

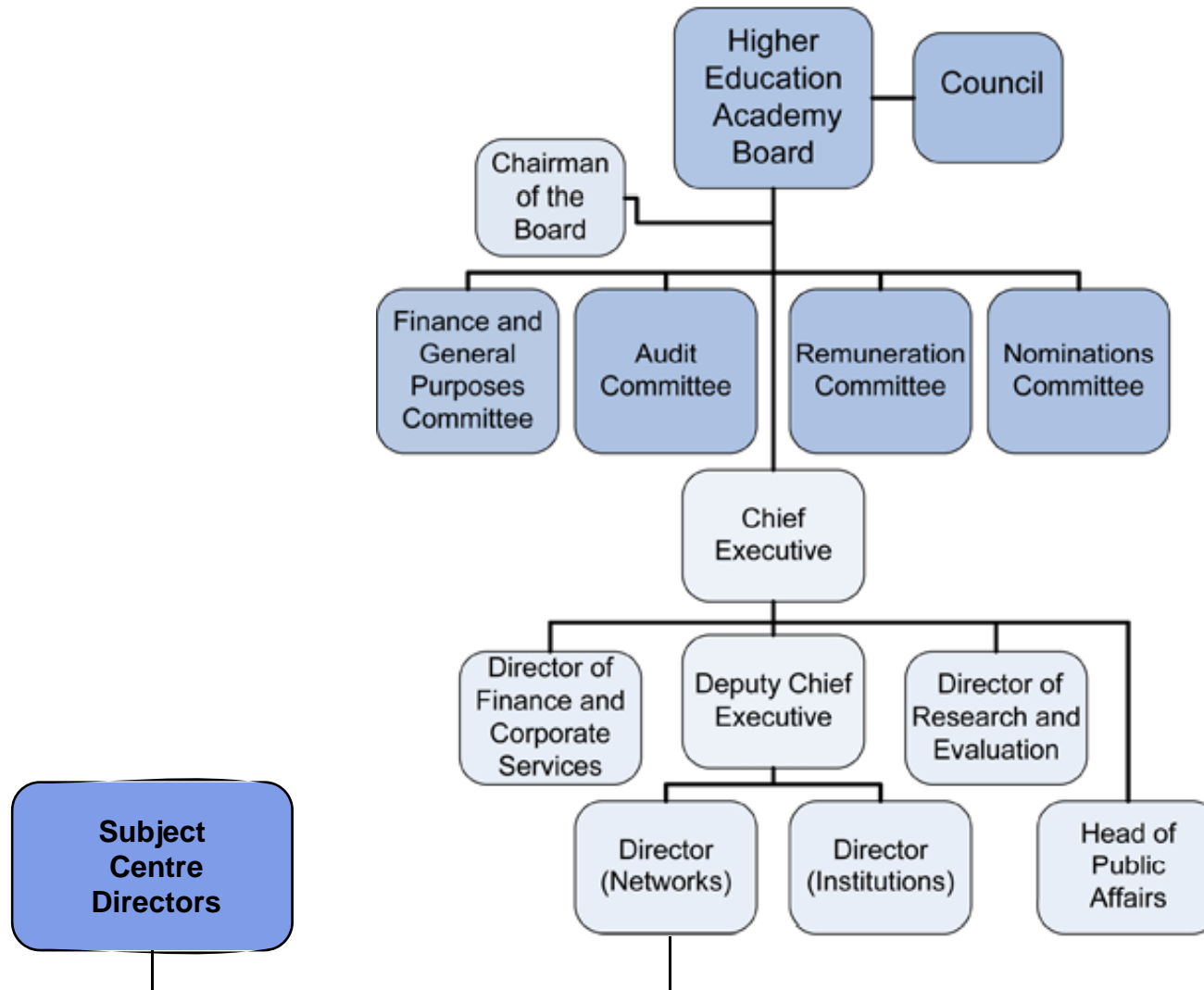
The Academy is funded by grants from the four UK funding bodies:

- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
- Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and,
- Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland.

It also receives voluntary annual subscriptions from higher education institutions.



Higher Education Academy - Structure



Chief Executive
Paul Ramsden
(retires December 2009)

Deputy Chief Executive
Sean Mackney

Director (Networks)
David Sadler

Director (Institutions)
Nick Hammond

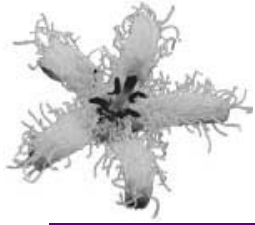


Higher Education Academy - Board

The Board is the executive authority that manages the business of the Academy. The individual Directors are also trustees of the charity.

The Board meets at least four times per year.

- 4 appointees from UUK and GuildHE, one of whom is elected by the Board to serve as Chair
- 2 appointed jointly by all the higher education funding bodies
- 4 Council members (2 registered practitioners and **2 Subject Centres representatives**). One of these is the elected Chair of Council
- 2 chosen by the Board from outside the sector
- up to 2 co-opted by the Board, one of whom shall normally be a student co-opted after consultation with the National Union of Students and National Postgraduate Committee



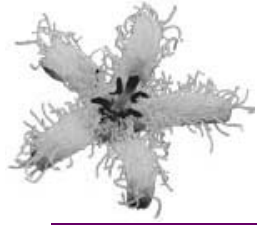
Higher Education Academy - Council

- The Board of Directors has established a new Committee of the Board called the Academic Council. The remit of the Academic Council is to advise the Board on all academic issues including:
 - Academic policy;
 - The research-teaching nexus;
 - Professional development and recognition; and
 - Enhancement of teaching and learning and how this can contribute to and improve the student learning experience.

Membership

- The Academic Council has 15 members, which have drawn from a wide range of the Academy's stakeholders including, **Subject Centres**, student bodies and the Academy network of Pro-Vice Chancellors and Vice Principals and Fellows of the Academy.





UK Centre for Bioscience - Relationship with Academy York

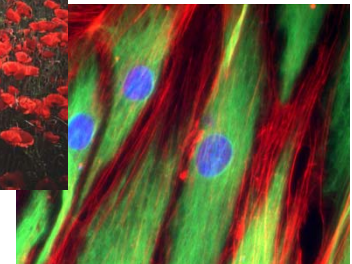
- Funded by the Higher Education Academy to July 2010, the 24 Subject Centres are an integral part of the Higher Education Academy's work
- Centres are performance managed by Academy York against agreed objectives set in outline by Academy York and interpreted by the Centre according to the needs and priorities of the Bioscience teaching community
- All Centres produce strategic and operational plans which are approved by Academy York and an Annual Report is submitted
- Centre Directors meet regularly with David Sadler, Director (Networks) to exchange information and influence policy

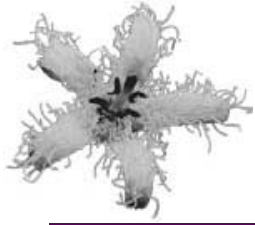


Centre Advisory Group

Chaired by Kevan Gartland, the role of the Advisory Group is to advise and support the Centre in both its strategic direction and operational activities. Current members are:

- **Chair** – Kevan Gartland (Glasgow Caledonian University)
- **Secretary** - Jackie Wilson (Centre Manager)
- Sue Assinder (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)
- Chris Butcher (University of Leeds)
- David Coates (University of Bradford)
- Liz Hudswell (Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS))
- Mark Langan (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Julian Park (University of Reading)
- Lyn Ribeiro (AstraZeneca)
- Jon Scott (University of Leicester)
- Chris Willmott (University of Leicester)
- David Adams (Director)
- Steve Maw (Centre Academic Advisor)
- Sheryl Meskin (Centre Academic Advisor)
- Julie Peacock (Centre Academic Advisor)





Centre for Bioscience - Strategic Aims

- To promote good practice in all aspects of support for the bioscience student learning experience
- To promote the development of research and evaluation to improve the quality of the bioscience student learning experience
- To support HE bioscience units in their strategies for improving the student learning experience
- To lead, support and inform the professional development and recognition of staff involved in bioscience higher education
- To be a well-informed and independent voice on policies that influence the bioscience student learning experience





Centre Objectives

- Revise or undertake existing and develop new activities to support Academy, Centre and bioscience community areas of focus for 2009/2010 including:
 - Assessment, feedback and plagiarism
 - Employer Engagement
 - New academic staff
 - Pedagogic research
 - Laboratory practical work and Fieldwork
- Collect, evaluate and make available quality information to promote good practice and inform the bioscience community about current issues in learning and teaching
- Encourage, support, undertake and disseminate pedagogic research
- Support and improve the status of learning and teaching
- Enhance the bioscience community's knowledge of Centre and Academy work
- Further develop and support Centre networks



Key Centre Activities


- Events
 - Professional Development Events (free to attendees)
 - National Science Learning and Teaching Conference (held with SCs for Materials and Physical Sciences biannually)
 - Forums and networking meetings on key issues and policy
 - Event Reports
- Funding
 - Teaching Development Grants (up to £4,000 per individual)
 - Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme (up to £15,000 per department)
 - Case Studies (usually £100 per study)



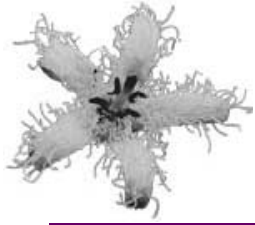


Centre Activities cont...

- Resources and Publications

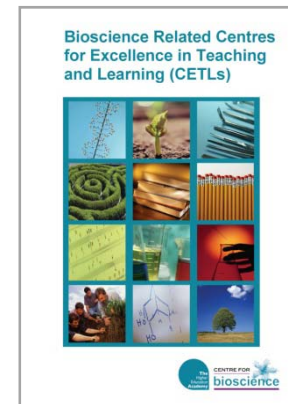
- Biosciences Education (peer reviewed journal available on-line) 
- Learning Guides – *Student Research Projects: Guidance on Practice in the Biosciences, Self- and Peer-Assessment; Effective use of IT*
- Bioscience Bulletin newsletter (informative articles from our community disseminated 3 times annually to over 7000 recipients)
- Short Guides (many Teaching & Learning topics covered)
- New Lecturers Resource Folder (a subject specific resource)
- ImageBank (over 7,000 bioscience images freely available for educational use)
- Teaching Development Grant project reports and access to outputs
- Audit tools (e.g. assessment, employability, work related learning, ethics)

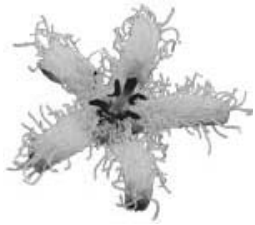




Centre Activities cont...

- Networking
 - Bioscience Representatives
 - CETLs
 - HE in FE
 - Educational Developers
 - Professional Bodies and Learned Societies
 - Sector Skills Councils
- Enquiries, News and Information
 - Responding to ad-hoc enquiries from community
 - Providing updates on pertinent issues to Bioscience HE Community
 - Responding to consultations on behalf of community





Centre Staffing

Director

David Adams
0.5 FTE



Centre Manager

Jackie Wilson
1.0 FTE



Project Officer (ImageBank)

Sue Grahame
0.2 FTE



OER Project Officer

Chris Taylor
1.0 FTE



Academic Advisors

Steve Maw, Sheryl Meskin, Julie Peacock,
Katherine Clark, Julian Park
3.3 FTE



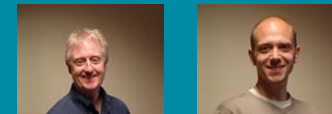
Administrative support

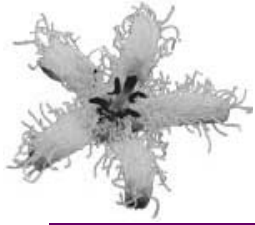
Gill Sayers &
Jill Anderson-Clarke 1.8 FTE



IT support

Terry McAndrew & Chris Birchall
1.5 FTE





Impact

- 2122 Bioscience contacts across the UK
- 111 Bioscience Departmental Representatives
- A very strong programme of professional development events
- Promotion and recognition of leaders in teaching and learning
- Strong links with bioscience-relevant Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs)
- Over 424,608 unique visitors to the website in 2008-2009
- Centre events are clearly effecting changes to attendees' teaching practices (e.g. 69% changing or intending to change their teaching practices following event attendance)
- Distribution list of over 7000 for the Bioscience Bulletin (12 page newsletter)

