

Title: **The North Wind and the Sun: achieving strategic institutional change**

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Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- **Evaluate** approaches to implementing changes to the curriculum and academic practice
- **Articulate** the challenges of moving from policy to practice
- **Apply** Derby case study frameworks to their own institutional contexts

Session Outline

An introduction to Derby's strategic approach:

The University of Derby's new Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching is supporting staff to meet increasing challenges in Higher Education to ensure the curriculum delivers on the growing expectations faced by the sector and to provide an excellent learning and teaching experience for our students. The University Student Success Strategy (2017) sets a clear educational philosophy for staff: transformational higher education for all students combining core academic strategies for a whole-institution culture of high quality learning and teaching, research informed curricula, students as partners, wellbeing, global perspectives and citizenship, and applied learning. The challenge for Derby and across the sector is moving from high level institutional strategy to pervasive institutional change.

- Views from delegates will be sought on the barriers of moving from policy to practice.

Policy to practice: Case study 1 - Digital Practice baselines

A case study example of implementing change in our approach to teaching excellence is through the implementation of digital practice baselines. As part of a new TEL Strategy, the University introduced baselines for all programmes to ensure the embedding of digital approaches in curriculum with the requirement for annual enhancement plans

- Delegates will discuss the balance between the need for prescriptive requirements to provide institutional benchmarking mechanisms and providing a framework that encourages academic freedom

Policy to practice: Case study 2 - Assessment and Feedback benchmarking

The University has launched an ambitious Assessment and Feedback Strategy (2017-2020) structured around five core themes that provides operational and developmental features; both ensuring consistency and encouraging innovation in disciplines and learning contexts.

- Delegates will discuss the Derby experience and the challenges of implementing change at scale

Plenary

The session will end with a plenary to capture the key discussions and collective learning from the session.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

1. An introduction to Derby's strategic approach (10 mins)
 - Question: Poll to identify delegates views on barriers to adoption of institutional strategic goals
2. Digital Practice Baseline case study example & discussion (15 mins)
 - Question: Exploring tension between prescriptive baseline requirements and academic freedom
3. Assessment and Feedback benchmarking case study example & discussion (15 mins)
 - Question: Discuss the Derby experience and the challenge of implementing change at scale
4. Plenary (5 mins)

References