Focus On:
Institution-led Review
Focus On projects link the outcomes of Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) with a developmental approach to enhancing policy and practice in the Scottish sector.

All higher education institutions in the Scottish university sector work collectively to promote policy and practice around the topic. Projects begin and complete in a single academic year. Staff and students identify priority areas within the topic and a programme of practical activity is designed to allow the sharing of practice around those areas to help colleagues make a real difference in a short space of time.

The Institution-led Review (ILR) project supported institutions to enhance their practice in the following areas:

- Engaging students in ILR
- Optimising the links between annual monitoring and ILR
- Aligning professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) and ILR requirements
- Consideration of the unit of review
- The use of data to support ILR
- Conducting thematic reviews
- Review of postgraduate provision.

Delegates from all Scottish institutions attended an event on approaches to ILR. They shared their ILR policies, and used the dialogue sheet opposite to evaluate their practice.
Where do you think you are now in your institution in terms of engaging students in ILR?

How can linkages be created between ILR and Enhancement? Institutional strategy? Annual monitoring? PSRB accreditation?

What are the factors you consider when deciding on the unit of review? How do you ensure appropriate focus at the discipline level?

Do you have the right data set to underpin ILR outcomes?

In what ways could you improve review of postgraduate provision?

Do you have the method to look like in 5 years?

What do you want your ILR method to look like in 5 years?

What are your greatest challenges in determining the unit of review?

How could these linkages be used to enhance the ILR process?

What are the similarities and differences between ILR and thematic/professional services review?

How will you know your approach is successful?

What type of students do you involve in your reviews? How do you involve them and what training do they receive?

What do your students think about how engaged they are in the ILR process? How do you know?

How will you know your approach is successful?

Is your method for reviewing postgraduate research student provision cyclical?

Is your data dynamic enough to ensure you address issues in a timely manner?
All materials from Focus On: ILR, including presentation slides from our dissemination event, a printable version of our dialogue sheet tool, and reports summarising current ILR practice in the Scottish sector can be found at:

www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/focus-on