

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING 16.05.2022

PRESENT: P Lynn (CG and Chair), C Cannon (EM), A Coleman-Cooke (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), M McClintock (CG), A Stephenson (EM) and D Still (Staff Governor).

OFFICERS: A Adamson (VP), S Ankers (AP), J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), G Duffy-McGhie (DOP), Z Foster (Clerk), C Ramsden (AP), J Steel (VP), P Watt (AP), C Yule (DOP).

IN ATTENDANCE FOR RELEVANT ITEM:

M Gardiner (Apprentice Improvement Manager), R Gray (DOP), A Hussain (English and Maths Manager), P Stone (DOP).

Key: CG – College Governor, EM – External Member, DP – Deputy Principal, VP – Vice Principal, AP – Assistant Principal, DOP – Director of Programme, RM – Regional Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

M Gaze (CG), M Laidler (CG), S Lane (CG), and E Rennison (CG).

2. Declarations of Interest – no declarations.

3. Feedback from Walkaround

The Committee members were very positive about the walkarounds and had been impressed by the enthusiastic students and staff. They had found students particularly articulate about their courses and pathways (which were very varied) and all engaged with their learning.

4. Minutes of Meeting of 29.11.2021 – approved as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising – all completed or on the agenda for the meeting.

6. Principal/CEO Verbal Update

Z Lewis reminded the Committee that the year was one of recalibration after Covid with a relaunch in January which included English and Maths catch ups; tutorial and career changes, PDEP changes more widely and work on improving further our students' positive destinations data.

She briefly outlined some of the items on the agenda including ITE inspection and teaching and Learning Strategy implementation.

7. QUIP Update

J Chance outlined progress within the four key areas in the QuIP– Apprenticeship Achievement rates; ITE; the quality of Access provision and increasing HE student satisfaction and also the close monitoring of English and Maths; A Levels and GCSEs (exams of which were about to start).

Committee members considered the local economy, staff retention, data, quality and uptake of T Levels as part of a full discussion on the positive recovery of Catering and Hospitality/Hair and Beauty particularly in light of the decision last year to stop future recruitment.

It was **agreed** that Catering and Hospitality and Hair and Beauty future recruitment would be revisited in full at the July meeting once the position was clearer and a firm management recommendation could be given.

8. Quality of Education – Intent

G Cumiskey outlined the curriculum planning process which was currently being finalised. He drew attention to the focus of increasing class sizes and plans for surplus staff through the continuation of the four extra supported hours; tuition fund; multiply process and increase in T Levels and related hours to be delivered.

The final plans for each faculty would be presented to the Committee and wider Governing Body at the meeting on 16 June 2022. In addition, the Curriculum Intent document would be strengthened in respect of destinations.

Governors' questions included: when the EMSI data would be updated (next year) and greater detail in relation to retail/commercial destinations; the new mandate for collaborative curriculum review every three years by local colleges and when this might occur in the Tees Valley; staffing for curriculum plan and difficult to recruit areas (such as network engineers; teaching staff) and measures used to recruit and retain staff.

Governors also noted the excellent coverage of the Digital Centre opening.

9. Quality of Education – Implementation

G Duffy McGhie gave a brief overview including: department drop ins, advice and support; performance management and formal observations processes; new staff and mentor support; and the new CPD practices including recent conferences.

10. Quality of Education – Impact

J Chance drew attention to the complexity of predicting outcomes this year in some areas due to the last two years of centre and teacher assessed grades. The Committee noted the proposal to compare outcomes to pre covid national rates and as such gave a high level overview of study programmes; high needs; adults; apprenticeships; HE and attendance.

Overview of Reforms for Apprenticeships Accountability - J Chance gave a brief account of the new accountability measures which had just come out (and were different to what was detailed in the report) and highlighted the biggest concern which was withdrawal. He outlined the College position which was positive.

Governors queried the six week drop-out rate reasons including induction and recruitment guidance.

10.1 Student Destinations – J Chance reminded the Committee about the detail of the destinations data including that Colleges were compared alongside School Sixth Forms and the negative effect of that. He confirmed that if compared with other colleges the College did measure positively.

He also described the DfE measures which did not consider internal progression for leavers and further clarified the position for less positive destinations for Levels 1 and 2 citing the importance of level of education on destinations overall.

He then detailed the outcomes for the various departments and further unpicked the complexities within the Adults faculty where a number of factors impacted on the destination outcomes making a single skills measure extremely difficult.

It was confirmed that the distance learning students tended to be in work already and that outcomes were reflected in respect of advancing their careers.

Z Lewis reminded the Committee of the importance of ensuring the skills measure was appropriate and of direct conversations she and J Chance were having with Government representatives to help inform on this.

10.2 Student Withdrawal Report 2021-2022 – J Chance drew attention to the slight increase at six week drop out and detailed the reasons why.

10.3 QDP Learner and Employer Surveys 2021-2022 – J Chance gave a brief summary of the surveys. He also outlined the use of Microsoft forms for immediate surveys and of further work to elicit more responses from employers and parents. Overall, student satisfaction was largely positive.

There was a discussion on the data used for the various reports and how figures were aligned/correlated. J Chance confirmed that the data team (reporting directly to him) coordinated all data reports therefore all information came from a single source. It was acknowledged that attendance was complex as there were a number of different measures feeding in.

11. Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes

A Adamson gave a full account of the PDEP programme which was being developed for September 2022 highlighting some of the new aspects including the Social Action Project and Grow Far platform. She also outlined disciplinary and attendance figures and drew attention to the enrichment activities currently on offer and increased offer for September.

Governors' discussion and questions included: the increased focus on behaviour management and correlation with disciplinary figures; additional new behaviour challenges (e.g. vaping); the logistics of managing the enrichment programme especially when it increases.

Z Lewis confirmed that the disciplinary processes would be split next year into attendance and behaviour.

12. ITE Inspection Update

C Ramsden gave an overview of the inspection outcome ahead of the final report coming out from Ofsted.

A detailed action plan would follow but she drew attention to some actions already identified and in progress including: feedback from J McShane (just starting in role) after a series of deep dives; enhancing the academic skills for the lower level students throughout the programme; ensuring research skills were embedded; developing suitable physical resources; CPD for ITE mentors to increase understanding and confidence; mechanisms to ensure the deeper understanding of theories and linking up tutors and mentors to ensure greater consistency in the pedagogical evidence base. Invaluable support was being received from E Rennison.

Governors' discussion included: the view of students (which was positive); acknowledgement of the progress thus far in the short timeframe; the wider review of teacher training providers and potential impact and wider dissemination of learning and CPD throughout the whole College team.

13. Provision Type Reports:

13.1 Education Programmes for Young People

P Watt gave a comprehensive overview highlighting: Hair and Beauty destinations and actions; new curriculum offer for Progression Studies; English and Maths progress and high grades; predictions status overall and internal progression. He further detailed areas to improve including consistency of teaching and learning, exam preparation and technique and continuation of the Digital Strategy for staff CPD.

P Watt also gave a comprehensive account of work experience and challenges due to Covid restrictions. Z Lewis confirmed that this risk had been drawn out within the College Risk Register particularly in light of T Levels and was a wider national issue.

Governors delved into the Travel and Tourism metrics and impact on the department and of ongoing improvements.

13.2 Adult Learning Programmes

C Ramsden gave a high level overview of progress highlighting that the curriculum was responsive to local needs with teaching and learning generally good. She also cited areas for

improvement, specifically attendance and access to HE and detailed the recent review of the access provision and resulting actions.

R Gray then gave a comprehensive account of the various strands of the provision including Maths and English; ESOL; community learning; Sector Skills Academy; employer links and actions; wrap around care (including wellbeing hub; clothing; housing and travel assistance).

Governors discussed: the work of Unity City Academy and related reduction in number of school exclusions; numbers within the sector skills academies (600-700 a year) and success rate which was applauded; English retention and engagement; and the ESOL provision generally and also with regards to destinations nationally and the success of the College.

13.3 Apprenticeships

A full report including QUIP was provided by M Gardiner including a reminder that the College had been above national rates over the last three years. She drew attention to the report from P Hornsby recommendations of which had been reflected in the QuIP and highlighted actions to further ensure consistency.

Governors sought clarification on the percentages of apprenticeships past their end date and reasons why.

13.4 Provision for Learners with High Needs

A Adamson gave a general overview and detailed increased numbers for September, strength of attendance, retention and progress in line with their peers. The difficulties recruiting to the Learning Support team was also highlighted.

Governorsdiscussed: how statutory requirements were determined and funded; the potential difficulties with one page profiles and how the provision was working to ensure that full EHCP information was still received, shared and utilized; the development of supported internships including funding, pathways, greater employer knowledge and involvement and wider local strategy; and how the extra 40 hours was being used.

13.5 Higher Education

P Stone gave a brief overview of progress with attendance, retention and pass rates on target albeit caveated with some potential Covid related know on (there may be a higher incident of suspension of studies) - a clearer idea would be known within the month. He detailed the response rate for the National Student survey (93%) which was very high with results to follow and confirmed that the conditions of registration for the OfS were all on track.

13.5.1 Overview of Reforms for HE Accountability

P Stone detailed three significant areas of new regulation from the OfS and how the College was responding i) Condition B3 Regulating Student Outcomes ii) Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) changes iii) Access and Participation Planning Process.

Governors discussed the potential impact of the changes to TEF, the likely award expected and any related potential impact.

13.6 English and Mathematics

A Hussain gave a comprehensive update on English and Maths including: rates at AP2, AP3 mocks and resulting standardization, functional skills, November resit results which were positive; attendance and apprenticeship provision outcomes and actions to support students (extra intervention sessions, learning and pastoral coaches, easter sessions).

13.6.1 Overview of the English and Maths Strategy and new proposed system Century Tech was presented by A Hussain. She detailed the embedding of English and Maths across the curriculum including expansion of the team; catch up sessions; awards and targets alongside the use of Century Tech.

Governors' discussion and questions included: the complexities of English and Maths within the apprenticeship frameworks and standards; debate on Level 2 English and Maths; and targets.

13.7 T Levels and ITE Report

G Cumiskey briefly talked to his report (the ITE element of which was superseded by the inspection). He detailed the visit of Ofsted in respect of T Levels and the forthcoming national report.

13.8 Subcontracted Provision

J Chance updated the Committee on progress with all subcontractors on target except Hope Foundation which he gave more detail to.

He reminded the Committee on the change to rules next year and of potential exemptions and possible secondment alternatives.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 Monday 13 June 2022 at 5pm – Joint meeting with GB – Curriculum Planning

14.2 Monday 11 July 2022 at 2pm – M Gaze to Chair (P Lynn – apologies)

15. Any other Business - none taken

16. Members Discussion – not taken

The meeting closed at 5.20pm