

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 29.11.2021

PRESENT: A Coleman-Cooke (CG and Chair), M Gaze (CG), M Laidler (CG), S Lane (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), P Lynn (CG); M McClintock (CG), D Still (Staff Governor).

OFFICERS: 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: K Burgess (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

J Cairns (DOP), C Cannon (EM), A Stephenson (EM).

2. **Declarations of Interest** – no declarations.

3. **Minutes of Meeting of 12.07.2021** – approved as a correct record.

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

5. Principal/CEO Verbal Update

Z Lewis gave a general introduction to the meeting referencing: the positive attendance and feedback by Governors to the SARs process; Taking Teacher Higher Strategy implementation; Apprenticeships and Service Industries Review and the return of staff and students into the College.

The Committee considered: SAR reports and simplification of reports for future Committee meetings.

6. Quality of Education – Intent

G Cumiskey drew attention to ITE progress ready for inspection; T Levels first year delivery; T Levels Thematic Ofsted Review and curriculum planning.

Governors' discussion included: T Levels and Level 3 qualifications; the complexities of economic modelling generally and in relation to the local economy and MC offer.

7. Quality of Education – Implementation (including the final Taking Teaching Higher Strategy)

G Duffy McGhie and G Cumiskey gave an overview of the quality assurance processes; focused review; ITE and the implementation of the new strategy including additional CPD in 2022 including the uptake by College staff to take QTLS.

M Gaze updated the Committee on her visit into College highlighting many positive observations and some suggestions for improvement.

Governors discussed: cultural shift and consistency amongst faculties and College CPD.

Governors **approved** the final Taking Teaching Higher Strategy.

8. Quality of Education – Impact

J Chance gave an overview of the final outturn for 2020-21 and drew attention to early indications in relation to targets for the current year.

Discussion and questions included: progression and new related measures and a need for more information on 'intended destinations'; positive gap analysis (i.e. very little);

The Committee **agreed** to recommend the QUIP and targets for 2021-22 for approval by the Governing Body at its meeting on 16 December 2021.

9. Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes

J Steel gave a full account of safeguarding interventions; PDEP new framework implementation; behaviour monitoring and initiatives; work on self assessment of FE in relation to the Prevent Duty; whole staff training on Sexual Abuse and Harassment; and the Cross College Careers Strategy.

Governors' discussion focused on how the College was ensuring equality of access for students in a number of areas such as work placements and external speakers. Governors also discussed the application of the behaviour system stages.

10. Provision Type Reports:

10.1 Education Programmes for young People

P Watt gave a comprehensive account of the provision drawing attention to key performance metrics; developments for 2021-22; attendance; progression rates and drop outs; destinations and work placements.

Governors' questions included: drop-out rates across departments with a request for greater demographic detail and T Level placements.

10.2 Adult Learning Programmes

C Ramsden gave an overview of the programmes including additional courses and an increase in adult retention.

Governors' discussed – Access; drop-out rates and possible interventions and ESOL.

10.3 Apprenticeships

A full report including QUIP was provided by S Ankers drawing attention to the impact of Covid on the apprenticeship journey for timely and on apprenticeship applications.

Governors' discussed: OFSTED requirements in relation to data and the progress journey; and recruitment and quality of experience for apprenticeships post Covid.

10.3.1. Service Industries Review

P Watt led on report outlining the reasoning for a further discussion after more recent in-depth analysis of the area. He drew attention to quality nationally and within College; financials; new provision offers for those areas and staffing.

Governors' had a full discussion including consideration of: balancing the needs of students and the local economy; related College risks; the local climate in relation to catering and hospitality; reputation; impact on staff; retention on the programmes; and employer views.

After discussion, the Committee **agreed** to pause the recruitment of new apprentices in Catering and Hospitality and Hair and Beauty (though the College would teach out the current cohorts) subject to annual review of the decision.

The Committee **agreed** to the management team in the area communicating this positively to employers through offering an enhanced T programme placement of our study programme learners with a view to increasing their external work experience hours and enhancing their future opportunities for progression into employment.

10.4 Provision for Learners with High Needs

J Steel gave an overview of the provision which was working well.

Governors' discussed the growth in this area and related funding.

10.5 Higher Education

P Stone gave an overview on the provision including some extension of end dates due to covid; ITE revalidation and preparation for Ofsted next year; and the fantastic achievement of graduates with increased numbers gaining upper second and first class degrees.

He also drew attention to the recent NSS survey results and ways forward to improve this; updated the Committee that the College was fully compliant with the OfS; and the implementation of 'University Centre Middlesbrough' title.

Governors discussed: the prospect of foundation degree awarding; the new HE minister's recent letter and the possible impact (positive and negative); and the NSS survey results and actions in detail.

10.6 English and Mathematics

K Burgess briefly outlined a positive start to the year including an update on the November resits.

Governors' discussion and questions included: any impact of English and Maths GCSE gradings on A Levels and associated challenges and solutions; and CPD/strategy in relation to literacy and numeracy across the College.

10.7 Subcontracted Provision

J Chance updated the Committee on a positive outturn for 2020-21 and a good start to 2021-22.

The proposed national changes from 2022-23 were discussed in full.

11. College Self Assessment Report 2020-2021

G Cumiskey and J Chance introduced the report.

A full appraisal of the SAR took place with the Committee ensuring that all areas were correct; that the narrative reflected the College and that some adjustments were made, subject to ***agreeing to recommend for approval*** to the Governing Body at its meeting on 16 December 2021.

12. Revised Dates of Meetings 2021-2022

12.1 Monday 4 April 2022 at 2pm

12.2 Monday 13 June 2022 at 2pm – Joint meeting with GB – Curriculum Planning

12.3 Monday 11 July 2022 at 2pm

13. Any other Business

G Cumiskey drew attention to some key management staffing changes in relation to English and Maths Manage and Associate Director of Quality.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm