

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 05.12.2022

PRESENT: P Lynn (CG and Chair), C Cannon (EM), M Gaze (CG), M Laidler (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), E Rennison (EM), D Still (Staff Governor), J Tait (CG).

OFFICERS: A Adamson (VP), J Barwell (AP), J Chance (VP), Z Foster (Clerk), R Gray (AP), B Robinson (DP), O Rodley (VP), J Steel (VP), P Watt (AP), C Yule (DOP).

IN ATTENDANCE FOR RELEVANT ITEM: A Arminfard (AD), R D'Souza (AD), M Gardiner (Apprenticeship Quality Manager), L Jones (Head of T&L), A Shepherd (AD), P Stone (DOP), L Summerside (AD), J Tyzack (AD).

Key: CG – College Governor, EM – External Member, DP – Deputy Principal, VP – Vice Principal, AP – Assistant Principal, AD – Associate Director, DOP – Director of Programme, Head of T & L – Head of Teaching and Learning.

1. Apologies for Absence

S Lane (CG), A Stephenson (EM).

P Lynn also welcomed J Tait to his first meeting of the Curriculum and Standards Committee

2. Declarations of Interest – no declarations.

To note - items 12.2 and 12.9 were taken first.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 11.07.2022 – approved as a correct record.

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

5. Principal/CEO Verbal Overview and Risk Summary

Z Lewis drew attention to the different style of self assessment (aligning with the Eif) and five strategic QUiP actions, which were also the main risks for the Committee's consideration.

B Robinson then took the Committee through the first phase of deep dive updates highlighting some positive feedback across the main Ofsted areas. He also detailed the areas for improvement which would be considered in detail by the quality team to determine actions.

Questions and discussion included: how the various staff teams had responded to the process; how excellent practice could be further shared across the College with speed (including detail of the January CPD day); the benefit of the devolved Heads of Teaching and Learning; and CPD impact and actions for implementation.

6. College Self Assessment Report – Executive Summary and Department Overview

O Rodley gave a comprehensive overview of the 2021-22 draft SAR with 'good' across all of the provision types. He drew particular attention to the improvements within Apprenticeships which had been 'requires improvement'.

The five key areas for improvement were also detailed.

Governors were appreciative of the new style self assessment.

Governors' questions and discussion included: the need to speed up on attainment and progress in some of the exam based subjects and related CPD on such areas as recall; how the College would perform against meeting the local skills needs and where there were issues (work placements, high needs); the pressure in relation to work placements more widely and how the College was approaching this with a tiered system and other initiatives; increasing supported internship numbers and related local and national strategies; student attendance figures both

College and School in local area and reasons for the issues; the issue of 17y+ NEETS nationally and locally; and ways of improving student wellbeing and resilience.

B Robinson confirmed that there would be a number of position papers ready to share on the training day in February with governors.

A few clarifications on wording and presentation were noted for change. Subject to those changes, the Committee ***approved for recommendation to the Governing Body at its 15 December 2022 meeting*** the College Self Assessment 2021-22 with a Grade 2 (*Good*).

7. QuiP/Development Plan Update

O Rodley presented the QUIP/Development Plan update.

Governors agreed the 5 College Areas for Improvement 2022-23 as outlined below and recommended them for **approval** by the Governing Body on 15 December 2022:

1. The quality of mentoring across the College's Initial Teacher Education provision requires improvement
2. English and Maths attendance requires improvement
3. In some exam based subjects, attainment and progress requires improvement
4. The volume of external work placements is too low
5. Whist in line with national rates, staff vacancy rates are too high in skills shortage areas.

8. Quality of Education – Intent

B Robinson drew attention to the key aspects of this within the deep dive presentations.

9. Quality of Education – Implementation

B Robinson drew attention to two future projects and how they would impact the College provisions i) new teaching and learning dashboard ii) relaunch of How2 platform.

Discussion and questions included: work placements for digital and increasing employer relationships for HE.

10. Quality of Education – Impact

O Rodley outlined the seven key metrics used to determine impact.

Clarification was given to numbers and TTE figures.

Action – to put numbers of learners in the information for greater clarity

11. Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes

A Adamson gave a detailed account including update on GrowFar; consultant visit and work placements update. She also updated on mental health referrals, disciplinarys and attendance.

Governors' questions and discussion: the positive social action projects; mental health increases – reasons and actions; supervision of staff supporting students; Social Prescribing Model; punctuality reports; complexities within Health and Care area in relation to staffing and reasons/mitigations.

Action in relation to the One Page Profile where some improvements were suggested.

12. Provision Type Reports:

12.1 Education Programmes for Young People

C Yule gave a comprehensive account of the provision.

Governors' questions and discussion included: the complexities in relation to some progression for 17 years plus and College actions and the issue with NEETs more widely

12.2 Adult Learning Programmes

R Gray gave an overview of the programmes including high retention and low drop out rates and gave some sector context for this.

B Robinson also detailed the recent deep dive which was very positive especially from the learners. Z Lewis also informed the Committee that the Access provision would be looked at in the Spring term and there was also the possibility of a further deep dive at a later date.

Governors discussed –. quality of progression and associated processes; evening enrichment opportunities including greater use of Thrive; absence and catch up sessions; the positive deep dive and related action plan; and DWP priorities and College course alignment.

Governors were impressed with the tremendous work by the faculty.

12.3 Apprenticeships

A full report was presented by M Gardiner noting the five main areas for improvement.

Governors discussed: an update on reintroduction of some courses and positive six week drop out in those; quality of employer placements; Engineering and Construction and staff retention.

Action - there was a request to include the ESFA dashboard for employers in the next pack.

12.4 Provision for Learners with High Needs

A Adamson outlined the number of high needs students and the ALS team leaders working across College.

C Cannon outlined her visit within Digital last week and of the good practice and feedback seen.

Governors discussed possible additional ways to encourage more High Needs students and whether there should be a distinct centre and the possible benefits of this; and also achievement of High Needs students more widely.

12.5 Higher Education

P Stone updated the Committee on the new dashboard of requirements for the ongoing conditions for OfS (B3) and how this was going to be assessed and fed into and impacted the TEF assessment.

Governors discussed the B3 requirements and related impact on TEF rating and clarification in relation to Student Union Representation.

Governors drew attention to a super graduation ceremony

12.6 English and Mathematics

B Robinson updated the Committee on the new appointment from January 2023 and noted the good results last year and areas for improvement and further innovation.

Governors' discussion included the updated strategy and Ofsted's deep dive focuses which included English and Maths

12.7 ITE

J Steel gave a comprehensive account of progress and drew attention to the new structure within the Department. She also informed governors of the forthcoming external consultant visit and of E Rennison's support to the Department.

Governors' discussion and questions included: mentor development, retraining and support; feedback to trainees and attendance on ITE and ways of catching up.

It was noted that there would be no January 2023 intake to the programme.

12.8 T Level Report

J Chance highlighted the Ofsted Thematic Review (the second of which was due in April 2023), early thoughts on progress, the ongoing issue with ensuring the number of work placements, the impact of the Health T Level summer assessments on college students and tailored support for those students going forward; and the introduction of Engineering T Level.

Governor questions included: confirmation that second year students had work placements (yes); nationally the issue of work placements; ensuring the overall feedback from the first year thematic inspection were addressed ahead of the forthcoming one; T Levels as a provision more widely and in relation to the Level 3 Curriculum review

12.9 Subcontracted Provision

R Gray updated the Committee on a positive start to 2022-23 with the established providers used by the College.

13. Department Reports

To Note - Health Study Programmes and Sport were the two vocational areas identified during the SAR process where progress would be monitored at Curriculum and Standards meetings.

13.1 Health Care and Business

J Barwell and her team gave a comprehensive update to progress including CPD impact, personal development activities; Clinical Skills lessons and significant improvements to behaviour and attitudes. She also detailed the difficulties and subsequent improvements to staffing as the term had developed.

Z Lewis gave an update in relation to the challenges the team have overcome, the positive progress being made within this area and of the upcoming consultant review planned for Term 2.

Governors acknowledged the significant staffing issues and how this was improving and sought reassurance that students were making the right progress at this stage.

Retention post Christmas was also discussed and the team highlighted a number of ways this was being encouraged. In addition, further upskilling for staff CPD for the remainder of the year was outlined for governors.

13.2 Sports, Travel and Public Services

P Watt highlighted the positive start to the year with reduced drop out and high attendance. He detailed some areas of improvement.

Governors' questions included: staff replacements; progression rates; the deep dives and in particular good student voice feedback; some clarification on terminology and CPD plans

14. Committee Review of the Top Risks

Governors confirmed that the top risks outlined at the start of the meeting remained those of greatest priority. However, in addition it was agreed that T Levels should perhaps be added to the risks for a number of reasons including: challenges for higher education places, volumes of work placements we require, the risk with the present image of T Levels following the issues with results last summer.

P Lynn informed the Committee of plans for the February training session which would include a focus on Ofsted and what good teaching looked like alongside a different approach to walkthroughs.

15. Dates of Next Meetings 2022-23

15.1 Monday 27 March 2023 at 2pm

15.2 Monday 12 June 2023 at 5pm – Curriculum Planning (All GB)

15.3 Monday 03 July 2023 at 2pm

16. Any other Business

None taken

The meeting closed at 5.30pm