

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 27.03.2023

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

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

OBSERVING: R Lawson – External Reviewer (AoC)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR RELEVANT ITEM: J Chance (Strategic Project Lead), R D'Souza (AD), M Gardiner (Apprenticeship Quality Manager), L Jones (Head of Teaching and Learning), A Shepherd (AD), J Steel (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.1111

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest – no declarations.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 05.12.2022 – approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising – all completed, within the meeting reports or in progress.

5. Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes

A Adamson gave an update to her report on Personal Development including the Student Leader Conference and student placements. She also updated the Committee on behaviour and attitudes drawing attention to the increase in disciplinarys and drop in attendance by 1% on the previous year.

Governors' discussion and questions included: how the College was checking recall of personal development learning (such as British Values); update on late start of lessons in a minority of areas and how this was being monitored and resolved (** see post meeting note below*); February corridor conversations and revision of questions in student survey (update at July meeting); quality of Thrive and improvements to lessons; wider quality assurance including Teaching and Learning walks; possible use of Thrive in encouraging young people to vote in 2024.

The Committee praised the team for the recent commendation at the AoC Beacon Awards for its Social Prescribing Model.

***Post Meeting Note:** In response to a governor query it was clarified that the student induction survey of over 3600 learners highlighted lessons starting on time at 94% (on national rate) and this is deemed a more reliable indicator than the small volume of corridor conversations – accepting that there is always more to do to improve punctual lesson starts.

6. Provision for Learners with High Needs

A Adamson gave a brief update since the last meeting including the deep dive action plan and updates to the digital learner log.

Debate and Questions included: discussion and clarification over 'impact' within the consultant's report (which will be double checked); the importance of learner voice within an Ofsted inspection and agreement that learners should be asked more regularly how things have changed with the support given.

A Adamson left the meeting at 2.30pm

7. Principal/CEO Verbal Overview and Risk Summary

Z Lewis gave a verbal overview of the outcomes from the thirteen external consultants who have visited the College departments which looked at the quality of the provision.

She then detailed progress within the five main areas of risk highlighting both the worries and the positive progress.

Questions and discussion included: reflections on lessons observed by E Rennison in Jan 2023; whether timetabling was affecting progress (analysis had not supported this); and debate about attainment and progress RAG rating at this stage in the year.

8. QuiP/Development Plan Update

O Rodley presented the QUIP/Development Plan update detailing progress against the key areas of improvement.

Discussion and questions included: a considered discussion on the current RAG rating of ITE after which it was agreed to keep as **green**; positive impact of Taking Teaching Higher strategies as exemplified in January exam results (e.g. recall); work placements and national strategies to improve uptake; Engineering numbers both College and nationally and potential future strategy in light of work placements and staff recruitment complexities; Digital T Level current positive destinations and future issues; vetting of employers; staff turnover including use of agency staff (low), returning to industry, potential impact of increased responsibilities for teaching staff and national issue of recruitment and retention of teaching staff in FE (and lobbying by AoC); TTE move and staff succession planning; behaviour management outside lessons (including positive experiences of governors on recent walkabouts) and associated strategies; increased focus on oracy within lessons; and further detail behind recent adult survey in relation to safety.

9. Quality of Education – Intent

B Robinson talked to his report highlighting that overall cross-college intent was strong.

Discussion and questioning focused on stakeholder involvement and ensuring curriculum content at Level 3 supported transition. C Yule highlighted the teachers knowledge network with Teesside University and academic links for all subjects at A Level and also good local college collaboration (including Sixth Form Colleges).

10. Quality of Education – Implementation

B Robinson gave a brief review of his paper.

Discussion and questions included: the ongoing checking of student understanding and how feedback was used; methodology and improved practice on learning walks (including moderation, number of walks and additional pop-ins); the high (88%) engagement with the How2 platform and how this was being utilized; and T Level Engineering action planning;

Governors noted how super it was to see that every area had some outstanding practice. The Committee also appreciated the revised format for the Areas for Improvement (Afi).

11. Quality of Education – Impact

O Rodley drew attention to key aspects of his report including: attendance interventions; areas for improvement within A Levels; and learner satisfaction outcomes.

Discussion and questions included: further detail on the A Level areas of concern and progress; possible change to A Level learner survey (currently compared with Sixth Form Colleges), benchmarking against other like colleges (which was complicated due to no national rate being provided); and clarification on adult full time satisfaction survey – both in terms of numbers and course.

12. Department Reports:

12.1 Health Care and Business

Health Care - J Barwell gave a positive account of improvements within the quality of education for Health confirmed by recent examination results. She also detailed the improvement plan in place for Access which was at the implementation stage.

L Summerside/R D'sousa, L Jones all highlighted the progress and commitment of staff (both new and established) within the department over the past months which was creating a very positive culture for both staff and students.

Governor questions and discussion included: number of learners on access and support for those learners this year; consistency between levels for Health; positive achievement and destinations for Level 3 Health; feedback from Employer Advisory Boards on their requirements from learners (including soft skills) and further engagement of employers on frameworks/curriculum; feedback on national second year T Levels external assessments; learner drop out figures for Health T Level and an update on the national picture.

Business – the concerns relating to teaching and learning were outlined with reasons and actions detailed including a new curriculum for September 2023 at Level 1.

12.2 Sports, Travel and Public Services

P Watt gave an overview to the teaching and learning changes within the Departments and of the positive impact these were having on progress. He also outlined the recent deep dives and of work with J Tait on implementation.

J Tyzack drew attention to positive evidence from recent walk throughs and pop-ins.

A Shepherd highlighted positive results from Sports and actions in place to further support two courses in Public Services.

Governor questions and discussion included: potential impact on staff leaving in-year and effective transition periods; resits protocol; revision support and student understanding of learner responsibilities; and further teaching and learning progress.

13. Provision Type Reports

13.1 ITE

J Steel and J Chance detailed preparation and progress ready for the forthcoming Ofsted re-inspection.

Committee questions and discussion included: mentor support, CPD and evidence of impact of implemented changes; structured programme for academic writing; an update on number of ITE providers nationally; and possible future growth.

13.2 T Levels Report

J Chance gave a positive update on the 281 students. He also confirmed return of Ofsted with the second part of the thematic review (3 days) and of the purpose and reporting of the visit.

Governors discussed the Government announcement of the delay in some future T Levels for September 2023 and the impact on staff and prospective students to those courses within the College.

13.3 Education Programmes for Young People

P Watt presented the report which was received by the Committee.

Governors discussed: progress areas of concern; retention and alternatives for students who did not achieve as expected; and clarification on student satisfaction within Access.

13.4 Adult Learning Programmes

From her written report R Gray drew particular attention to high retention rates, attendance and the outcome, actions and mitigations from the recent deep dives.

Questions and discussion included: confidence in the transformed Adult Learning Programmes as evidenced by the recent deep dives; drop in destinations and reasons why; and the Multiply programme progress.

13.5 Apprenticeships

M Gardiner updated the Committee on the improvements across the majority of areas with the overall rating of 'good' in respect of quality.

Discussion focused on retention and the Education Apprenticeship Accountability dashboard clarifications (in which all areas were rated GREEN for the College).

13.5.1 - SE Apprenticeship Proposal – the proposal to restart Beauty Therapist Apprenticeships at Level 2 and 3 (as per the report) was outlined and discussed in full by the Committee.

Governors' questions included: clarification on numbers and viability; and an update on the situation with hairdressing (remaining on pause for the time being).

After consideration, the Committee **agreed**:

- To restart recruitment in April 2023 to Beauty Therapist Level 2
- To restart recruitment in April 2023 to Beauty Therapist Level 3 for new sign ups and progress apprenticeships where suitable employment is available.

13.6 Higher Education

P Stone gave a considered account of the Higher Education faculty.

Governors questions and discussion included: TEF criteria changes, possible opportunities to contextualise responses within the TEF application process; and expected outcomes and any potential impact of TEF outcome decisions; and progress in relation to the upcoming Open University revalidation.

13.7 English and Maths

R Walsh was introduced to the Committee and his report received.

Discussion focused on: the outcomes of the External Review (to which a written report had not yet been received) and detailed understanding of the situation and actions for Maths; further moderation of predictions and resulting interventions for summer examinations; an update on Century Tech and student engagement of it; and attendance.

13.8 Subcontracted Provision

It was acknowledged that the report had been presented both to Corporate Services and the Governing Body in previous weeks. There were no further questions.

14. Committee Review of the Top Risks

Governors confirmed that the top risks remained the same. It was noted that Maths had gone up in relation to predictions. Additionally, Z Lewis would also check the consultant report for High Needs.

The Committee noted the improvement to presentation and detail within all of the reports.

15. Dates of Next Meetings 2022-23

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

15.2 Monday 03 July 2023 at 2pm with Governing Body joining from 4.30pm to hear Recommendations from the Committee

16. Any other Business

None taken

The meeting closed at 5.25pm