ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES

Mrs Diane Cleves (Staff Governor - Academic)
Ms Jean Golightly (CG)
Mr Tom Courtman-Stock (Student Governor)

ITEM 2 - MINUTES 6 MARCH 2018

The minutes of the 6 March 2018 were approved.

ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING
The Clerk to the Corporation reported that there was one matter still outstanding, and this was in relation to the QDP On Programme Exit Survey, as the results were not yet available at the time of publishing the agenda pack. The Vice Principal – Quality & Performance then gave a brief overview of the results, with the majority of areas seeing improvements, with safety questions being substantially improved following the recent improvements. The Standards Committee requested that the report be shared prior to the next meeting, so it could review its findings between meetings.

18/012 ITEM 4 - CROSS COLLEGE REPORTS

4.1 Teaching, Learning & Assessment

The Director of Teaching & Learning / Student Development presented an up-date on the progress being made, with a total of sixteen (out of eighteen) Department Reviews having taken place, with the remaining to be completed by the end of June 2018.

Governors welcomed the comprehensive up-date and the positive progress that had been made in-year at improving Teaching, Learning & Assessment, and then asked:

- What actions were in place to continue improvements in A Levels?
- What areas still remain as areas of focus, and what strategies are in place to address these during the remainder of this year and next year?
- What actions are in place to continue improvements in the Northern Skills Group?

After an up-date on these questions, the Standards Committee requested that the OCP data be split into Traineeships and the rest for all future reporting.

4.2 Destinations 2016 & 2017 & Withdrawal Report 2017 & 2018

The Vice Principal - Quality & Performance presented an overview of the 2016 / 2017 student destinations, along with an up-date on the 2017 / 2018 withdrawals, which was received for information, with full-time destinations in 2016 / 2017 seeing an improvement to 96%.

Governors asked:
4.3 Quality Improvement Plan 2017 / 2018

The Vice Principal - Quality & Performance presented an update on the progress being made with the 2017 / 2018 Quality Improvement, and Governors asked:

- Whether there was any disparity between different groups of students achieving? In response, the Vice Principal – Quality & Performance stated that a report on “achievement gaps” is due to be shared with Equality & Diversity Committee, with no discernable gaps being reported, which is a significant improvement from previous years.

After some discussion, the Standards Committee requested a summary of GCSE Examination Grades for 14 to 16-year-old cohort, and the attendance rate for 14 – 16 years infills.

5.1 Progress Measures and KPI’s Up-date

The Vice Principal - Quality & Performance presented the latest Performance Dashboard, which highlighted positive progress being made against a number of metrics, and Governors asked:

- Whether students were continuing to make the required progress in English & Maths in the lead up to the examinations in later May / early June 2018? In response, Vice Principal - Quality & Performance stated that progress was predicted to be above the 2016 / 2017 National Rate, and continues to be an improving trend in 2017 / 2018, with further improvements likely due to the on-going strategies.

Governors welcomed the overview and the progress, noting that appropriate strategies are in place to address poor course

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<th>ITEM 5 - DEPARTMENT &amp; DIRECTORATE UP-DATES</th>
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<td>The Standards Committee welcomed the comprehensive set of reports, and having read the reports, would ask questions to further understand the strengths, areas of improvement and predicted outcomes for 2017 / 2018.</td>
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<td>For sight of the adult analysis when it is complete? In response, the Vice Principal - Quality &amp; Performance stated that the adult analysis would be undertaken soon, and the Standards Committee requested that this is shared as soon as possible.</td>
<td>John Chance</td>
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performance in year.

5.2 A Levels

Mrs Carolyn Yule, Director of A Levels (MC6), presented the Directorate Report, which gave Governors an overview of MC6, and the actions that are now in place to continue to improve Value Added, and the overall Achievement Rate.

Governors asked:

- Whether the new two-year linear programmes were having an adverse effect on the retention data? In response, the Director of A Levels stated that the College is expected to be better than national rates, and have advised the majority to apply for other courses in the College.

The Director of A Levels then stated that the mocks and further tests in-year had given the department more detailed information on how progress was being made, and hence some of the predictions had changed from AP1 to AP4, with expected progress outturns being higher than 2016 / 2017.

Finally, the Standards Committee requested further information, should it be available, on the drop-out rates for AS and A2 nationally, compared to MC6.

5.3 English & Maths

Ms Kate Burgess (Cross College English and Maths Manager) and the Deputy Principal then presented the English & Maths Report, which gave Governors an overview of the current strategies in place to improve student progress further.

Governors asked:

- What actions were in place to address the different Attendance Rates in departments? and whether the use of vocational staff teaching English & Maths, alongside key specialists, was having a positive impact? In response, the Cross College English & Maths Manager stated that there were many strategies in place including Attendance Officers as well as vocational support staff, with improvements being seen throughout the year.

The Cross College English & Maths Manager then stated that enormous efforts are being put in by all staff to ensure that
students attend their examinations, with extra revision sessions being put on to address any knowledge gaps. This is in addition to managers supporting their English & Maths Team, with numerous Focus Group having been held to drive improvements.

The Standards Committee thanked the Cross College English & Maths Manager for her hard work in 2017 / 2018, and hoped that the predictions were realised.

5.4 Northern Skills Group

Mr Andrew Robson and Mrs Kelly Pattison from the Northern Skills Group attended, and stated that the Employer Survey results were not out until June 2018, with an overview of the progress being made with key achievement data being shared.

Governors asked:

- What actions are usually put in place to address the areas for improvement highlighted in the recent Department Review? In response, the Vice Principal - Quality & Performance stated that following on from any Department Review a number of actions are put in place, with individual members of staff receiving an action plan to achieve full confidence (if they haven’t already) within a four-week period. This will then be reviewed again after 4 weeks to ensure that full confidence is achieved against the three gold standards of planning, assessment for learning or managing progress and supporting learning. A formal report is then shared with department managers to implement targeted actions to improve any areas identified, with any significant actions being added to the departments Quality Improvement Plan (QUIP), which is then reviewed at departmental review meetings.

- What processes are in place when undertaking new Due Diligence? In response, it was reported that there is a comprehensive process in place for OCP Providers and Apprenticeship employers, which is refined and improved each year.

An up-date was then shared on the discussions being held with a subcontractor regarding one of their client’s bankruptcy, and the actions that were needed to be put in place to try to support those Apprentices to achieve.

The Standards Committee requested that there is a bigger “Employer Voice” focus within future reports, and they would
continue to monitor the area closely so that results meet expectations.

The Standards Committee also requested that due consideration is made of ensuring that regular Due Diligence takes place on contractors each year, so that any risks can be identified and then monitored, and not just at the start of a contract.

5.5 Higher Education

Mr Paul Stone, Director of Higher Education, presented the report, which highlighted the progress being made with Higher Education.

The Standards Committee welcomed the up-date, which highlighted the positive progress being made with recruitment, as well as the positive progress in ensuing that courses were being validated with the Open University & Pearson Education.

Governors asked:

- Whether the application to the Office for Students would be completed on time, and whether there were going to be any issues? In response the Director of Higher Education stated that the document would be provided by the deadline date.
- Whether the Academic Board had met? In response, the Director of Higher Education stated that it had met several times, with the Nominated Governor (Carol Cooney) in attendance.

The Director of Higher Education then gave a brief overview, with input from Mrs Carol Cooney (College Governor and Higher Education Nominated Governor), of the activities of the Academic Board to date, and the Standards Committee requested that information be shared with the Governing Body through the Weekly Governance Email on a regular basis.

5.6 Adult Provision

Miss Rachael Lacey, Associate Director of Business Education, presented an up-date on cross College Adult Provision, and clarified the breadth of provision within this area being Distance Learning, Outward Collaborative Provision (OCP), Access, Functional Skills and Adult Training.

Governors asked:
• What systems were used in gathering the data due to the nature of it being cross College provision? In response, the Associate Director of Business Education stated that all adult data is gathered from numerous department on central systems e.g. ProSolution.

• Whether the number of students accessing loans was increasing or decreasing, and whether there is a trend in the sector? In response, the Associate Director of Business Education stated that this has increased over recent years, but has levelled recently due to competition and concerns over education debt levels.

The Standards Committee welcomed the progress and noted the difficulties in growing recruitment due to the range of training opportunities in the Tees Valley, many of which are provided by local training providers, and also restrictive funding rules.

5.7 **Sport & Recreation**

Mr Paul Watt, Executive Director, presented the Directorate Report, which highlighted the improvements being made in 2017 / 2018 following discussion over the 2016 / 2017 Self-Assessment Report.

Governors asked:

• Whether the Executive Director had confidence that the results would be improved in 2017 / 2018, and what strategies are in place to drive these improvements?

The Standards Committee welcomed the positive changes being made, with Marked Work significantly improved with the Sport & Recreation Team, and this was now having a positive impact, along with the clearer lines of structure in place.

5.8 **Hair & Beauty**

Mr Paul Watt, Executive Director, presented the Directorate Report, and up-dated the meeting, and Governors welcomed the up-date, with Functional Skills Achievements improving, and the number of applications higher than last year.

The Standards Committee requested that the information on the Quality Improvement Plan be better presented so that it was easier to track progress.

Governors asked:
5.9 Catering & Hospitality

Mr Paul Watt, Executive Director, presented the Directorate Report, and discussed the direction of travel of some of the key predictions. After some discussion, the Standards Committee was reassured that actions and strategies are in place.

Governors then asked:

- Why the predictions for high grades in English & Maths were lower than last year, albeit only by a percentage point? It was discussed that the predicted English & Maths High Grades were performing like last year albeit English 0.7% and Maths 1.3% down, actual student numbers on GCSE has increased, as have the predicted progress measures in English and Maths, which is a more reliable data measure than high grades. Functional Skills was also expected to perform with very high achievement rates like the previous year.

(The Vice Principal - Quality & Performance left).

5.10 Progression Studies

Mrs Jenni Cairns, Director of Progression Studies, gave an overview of the Department and its activities, with key areas being Life Skills, ALS, High Needs, MC Academy and Youth Engagement Initiative.

Governors asked:

- Whether the Progression Boards have taken place, and whether this had meant that students were progressing positively, either internally or into mainstream education? In response, the Director of Progression Studies stated that all students were positively progressing either at Middlesbrough College or into mainstream education.

- Whether most students were undertaking Functional Skills? In response, the Director of Progression Studies
stated that most students are undertaking the qualification unless they are exempt.

Governors welcomed the up-date, and noted the challenges relating to those learners, especially the Vocational Steps courses Attendance Rate, which was not at the College target, with intervention strategies working well to support students to achieve.

5.11 High Needs

Mrs Jenni Cairns, Director of Progression Studies, presented an up-date in relation to High Needs, with the report building on the information shared on the 6 March 2018.

Governors asked:

- What would be the impact of the changing funding from the various Councils, and in particular Middlesbrough Council? In response, the Director of Progression Studies stated that this would be difficult, but was looking at more cost effective support for the High Need Learners.

Governors were pleased that work experience opportunities, where students were work ready, were being provided, and alternatives where students were not work ready were being explored to widen the student experience.

5.12 Construction

Mr Steve Ankers, Executive Director, presented the Directorate Report, which highlighted the predictions for 2017 / 2018, along with some of the concerns that are being closely monitored.

Governors asked:

- What intervention strategies were in place to improve English & Maths, and in particular attendance and teaching contact time? In response, the Executive Director stated that a number of vocational staff are supporting the students, and this is having a positive impact. The Attendance Officer is also ensuring that students attend their lessons, with intervention strategies in place, should they not attend.

- How is the department looking at reaching out to Carillion Apprentices that have lost their jobs recently
due to the collapse of the firm? In response, the Executive Director stated that the department is working with CITB and Carillon to ensure employment and complete their training.

The Standards Committee welcomed the up-dated in terms of the support being offered to English & Maths students, with many of the vocational staff assisting in the delivery of the provision due to some absence.

5.13 Engineering

Mr Steve Ankers, Executive Director, presented the Directorate Report, highlighting that the Department Review outcome has had a positive impact on the morale of the Engineering Team.

Governors asked:

- What actions are in place to address recruitment of Mechanical Engineering students? In response, the Executive Director stated that the department is engaging with the Marketing Department to promote the course within schools, and also looking at developing a number of employer testimonials to boost recruitment.

The Executive Director stated that a great deal of effort has been put into the planning process to ensure that students attend their English & Maths examinations in May / June 2018.

5.14 Business & Education

Mrs Paula Willis, the Executive Director, presented an up-date, and Governors asked:

- Whether there is likely to be further withdrawals before the end of last year? In response, the Executive Director stated that new systems have been introduced, and with better Information, Advice & Guidance this should reduce the drop-out rate, which is already above last year’s level.

The Standards Committee welcomed the overview, with an up-date in the numbers of 16 to 18 students within the Directorate (120) being provided.

5.15 Health & Care
Mrs Paula Willis, the Executive Director, presented an update, and, with external assessment results likely to be higher than last year, this would have a positive impact.

Governors asked:

- Whether the intervention strategies that are in place for English & Maths would mean that High Grades results would be better than predicted? In response, the Executive Director stated that students are being supported by the Vocational Coaches, with additional homework being set, to improve outcomes.

- What were the reasons that James Cook Hospital had delayed the work placements, and would this have an impact? In response, the Executive Director stated that the hospital has changed its procedure recently, and also amended its numbers that it takes, both of which have had an impact.

The Standards Committee then received an update on the development of a system to report Level 3 progress measures, as the Cache Programme cannot be facilitated by Learning Plus. The Standards Committee requested an update on the development of this, so that they could measure progress being made at future meetings.

5.16 Computing

No issues raised.

5.17 Visual & Performing Arts

No issues raised.

5.18 Travel & Tourism

No issues raised.

18/014 ITEM 6 - DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS 2018 / 2019

- Monday 26 November 2018 at 2.00 pm
- Monday 4 March 2019 at 2.00 pm
- Monday 20 May 2019 at 2.00 pm

18/015 ITEM 7 - ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS
### Action

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### ITEM 8 - MEMBERS DISCUSSION

The Standards Committee reflected on discussion, the progress being made to further outcomes, the learning outcomes from recent visits to Outwood Academy by the Principal / Chief Executive and Deputy Principal, and the key actions from the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm