

# THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

## CONFIRMED MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE – 29.06.2020

**PRESENT:** A Coleman-Cooke (CG and Chair), M Gaze (CG), M Laidler (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), M McClintock (EM), A Stephenson (EM), D Still (Staff Governor).

**OFFICERS:** J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), G Duffy-McGhie (DOP), Z Foster (Clerk).

### **IN ATTENDANCE FROM 10.15AM ONLY:**

S Ankers (AP), M Gardiner (Apprenticeship Improvement Manager), P Watt (AP), K Burgess (English and Maths Manager), C Ramsden (AP), R Gray (AD), C Yule (DOP).

**Key:** CG – College Governor, SG – Student Governor, EM – External Member, DP – Deputy Principal, VP – Vice Principal, AP – Assistant Principal, DOP – Director of Programme

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

J Hatfield (SG), S Lane (CG), C Cooney (CG), P Stone (DOP), J Cairns (DOP).

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

### **3. Unconfirmed Minutes of 26.05.2020 – A Coleman Cooke**

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The matters arising were considered.

### **5. College Re-opening Verbal Update – Z Lewis/G Cumiskey/J Chance**

**5.1 Remainder of Current Academic Year–** SLT members confirmed that the return to College for the allocated students had gone extremely well with very good attendance and behaviour. The College was also starting to open its public venues which were subject to differing arrangements.

**5.2 5.2 New Academic Year 2020-21 –** three different scenarios has been timetabled for and detailed work was ongoing with regards to the September return for all students. Key issues were public transport, and unusual enrolment patterns.

Discussion and questioning included: current attendance and measures for those who hadn't returned; size of classrooms and options to improve numbers in classes; transport difficulties.

### **6. Cross College Reports**

#### **6.1 Assessment Update**

J Chance updated the Committee fully in relation to all assessment areas which overall saw some incremental improvement in line with assessment points throughout the year.

Governors acknowledged the considerable work by all staff involved in assessment processes and articulated confidence in the processes undertaken by the College.

Discussion and questioning included: Results Day plans (as normal with adaptations); response to possible FOI/GDPR requests post results; potential effect of any over-inflation of grades nationally and Awarding Bodies standardisation.

Governors asked for a post results report by level and subject area which considered percentage of students expected/getting target grades in order to best assess any trends

## **6.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment Update – G Duffie McGhie**

The report included an update on quality on completion of the Departmental reviews, an update on online engagement and two new, cross-college initiatives: Digital Culture 2.0 - Staff CPD and Myday – student and parent Apps.

Discussion and questions included: A Level teaching in relation to achieving 'full confidence' and reasons around that; Health and Care improvements; the positive impact of the Quality Improvement Coach; support to staff with active blended learning approach and aspects of the new model and related CPD which was occurring ahead of students returning; aspects of the Myday platform including data security.

*A Stephenson left the meeting.*

## **6.3 Apprenticeships including QUIP and KPIs**

G Cumiskey/M Gardiner highlighted the greater consistency in relation to KPIs; numbers in relation to completed courses; remaining numbers; and the forthcoming independent audit of the provision in two weeks time.

Governors' questions and comments included: clarification on predictions table; the possible effects of the end of furlough on remaining learners and KPIs and various scenarios which could impact on the achievement of the KPIs.

Governors asked for completed figures to be included in brackets within the AP5 Predictions table.

Governors congratulated the Apprenticeships Team on the significant progress made

## **6.4 HE Update – G Cumiskey**

The report was received.

Questions and discussion focused on – the complexities of potential over-recruitment including the process of the unconditional offers and College strategy; the possible increase in popularity of HE courses in the current climate; enrolment strategy more widely both locally and in respect of national policy and plans; and that final figures would only be known absolutely post enrolment.

## **6.5 Quality Policy – J Chance**

The updated policy was presented.

Governors discussed the reporting and any target setting in relation to progress and destinations. It was confirmed that data on destinations was given at the start of the year for different groups of learners and that overall KPIs were set.

Governors acknowledged that the policy was positive and encouraging. After discussion, it was agreed that the presentation would be revised as per the discussion and the policy re-presented to the Committee.

## **7. Department and Directorate KPIs/Departmental Analysis Report – G Cumiskey/J Chance**

Department and Directorate leads gave some insight into how the past few months had gone including: detailed standardization within assessment; external pressures from some Awarding Bodies with little and/or late guidance; how online learning had worked in keeping up skills and knowledge of students; positive engagement of students; how the assessment point process had assisted with predictions; the positive attitude of students who had returned; how workshops and timetabling had been adapted for returning students particularly in practical areas; and the fantastic support and work of staff across the College.

Additionally, some Department specific updates:

- An update to Health and Care was given with detail on adapting the placement elements.

- Access improvements up to the point of lockdown and C Ramsden outlined some of the strategies put in place which hopefully would result in an improved outturn.
- A Levels – retention improvements and support for students who had been disengaged and support for students in relation to progressing to university with an ‘Aim Higher’ month during June
- Progression Studies – an area where students would need to be on site from September and classrooms could be adapted; half of all High Needs learners came under in this area hence support requirements were high – online engagement had been very good. Further work with the LA to support new learners with their transition was due ahead of the new academic year

Governors’ discussion and questions included:

- Distance learning - achievement rates and measures to improve; student numbers and length of courses and how the area impacted on Adults overall
- Overall Level 3 value added target and complexities around that, including no national measure
- How practical work was having to be adapted in key areas such as Hair and Beauty and Catering and Hospitality; workshop based courses
- Possible transfer between courses of students (e.g. from A Level to vocational)
- Mix it Up course update which may be added to in the future

Governors asked that the Quip, be available at every Standards meeting, whether as an agenda item in its own right or attached to a relevant cross college report.

Governors thanked staff for the huge amount of work undertaken over recent months.

**8. Date and Time of Next Meetings – A Coleman Cooke**

- i) The usual Results updates for Governors would go out after Results Days in August
- ii) SARs – 21 and 22 October 2020. The importance of governors attending the SARs would be reinforced at 1:1 meetings
- iii) Monday 14 December 2020 at 2pm
- iv) Monday 8 March 2021 at 2pm
- v) Monday 17 May 2021 at 2pm
- vi) It was **agreed** that it would be useful to have an update before the December meeting.

Post Meeting Note: the Chair and Vice Chair of Committee agreed that an update would be given at the Strategic Planning Day on 18 September 2020.

**9. Any other Business – none taken**

**10. Members Discussion – not taken**

*The meeting closed at 11.10am*