

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 09.03.2020

PRESENT: A Coleman-Cooke (CG and Chair), C Cooney (CG), M Gaze (CG), J Hatfield, (SG), M Laidler (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), D Still (Staff Governor).

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

IN ATTENDANCE FOR THEIR ITEM ONLY:

S Ankers (AP), M Gardiner (Apprenticeship Improvement Manager), T McNicholas (RM), K Knights (RM), D Longmore (RM), P Watt (AP), K Burgess (English and Maths Manager), P Stone (DOP), C Ramsden (AP), R Gray (AD), C Yule (DOP), R Stainthorpe (DD), K Cutler (AD), E Pargeter (AD), R D'souza (AD).

Key: CG – College Governor, SG – Student Governor, EM – External Member, DP – Deputy Principal, VP – Vice Principal, AP – Assistant Principal, DOP – Director of Programme, AD – Associate Director, RM – Regional Manager, DD – Deputy Director.

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of 25.11.2019 – *approved and signed.*

4. Matters arising not on the Agenda

Matters arising either complete or ongoing.

5. Cross College Reports

5.1 Progress Measures and KPIs Update – J Chance

J Chance drew out key elements of the written report based on Assessment Point 3 including: strong outturn expected with Study Programmes; High Grades highlighting some concerns with English; achievement for Adults which was hoped to be above national rate; Apprenticeships update; HE and TTE metrics building.

Discussion and questioning included: English high grade predictions and support options; A Level retention; where AS figures were included; Adults – attendance and retention.

Governors recognized the incremental progress being made and acknowledged that Maths and English would always remain a challenge.

5.2 College Quality Improvement Plan 2019-2020 – J Chance

J Chance updated the Committee in full.

Governors found the plan helpful and the style easy to interpret.

.

5.3 Teaching, Learning and Assessment Update – G Duffy-McGhie

A full overview was given by G Duffy-McGhie including: a reminder of the changes; that a significant majority of staff were getting through the process with full confidence and detail of the re-observation process for a small number.

Discussion and questions included: low numbers for 'outstanding' practitioners to which the rubric was explained; Teaching and Learning Mentors; debate on moving to a developmental approach without gradings; terminology in relation to 'assessors'; detail of the relevant professional development to get to 'full confidence'; T Levels pilot and risks in the qualification; discussion and explanations in relation to GCSE resits performance

5.4 Student Withdrawal Report 2019-2020– J Chance

J Chance gave a review of the report highlighting that drop out rates had reduced for both Study Programmes and Adults compared to the previous year, but that the overall 6 week drop out rate needed to reduce further.

Governors' questions and comments included: high drop-out rate for Sport and Hair and Beauty; debt and loan issues (which would be followed up); strategies which had worked to reduce the rate (new processes including improved IAG and induction).

5.5 QDP Learner Induction Survey 2019-2020 – J Chance

J Chance updated the Committee on results and of additional surveys for Adults and Apprenticeships which were more regular.

Questions and discussion focused on: the impact of IT system issues; questions which may have skewed the data; discussion of possible reasons for increases in 5% who do not feel 'safe'; correlations with the staff survey; acknowledgement that numbers were good (3000 students) overall.

5.6 Apprenticeships – S Ankers/M Gardiner

The verbal update included: retention on main programme and Step Up group; new standards; the role of Regional Managers in improving the provision; progress against the action plan; the need to increase apprentices throughout the College teams; TTE situation re inspection and integration with College practice.

Governors' discussion and questions included: the College strategy on Level 2 and the wider ramifications both College and nationwide; data checking and language in relation to Smart Assessor; ensuring that the College universally used Smart Assessor with all apprentices and assess (throughout the year) whether the effectiveness and quality could be said to be good; CPD for training advisors and formal changes to their job title from 'assessor'; explanation of some low retention rates; QDP data explanation and strategies; the involved role of the regional managers; where the department was in the progression to 'good'.

Governors acknowledged the good progress made thus far.

5.7 Study Programme Report – P Watts

P Watt gave a brief overview of the written report including reduction in drop out of students overall with involvement of managers in enrolment and of overall strong attendance rates.

Governors' questions and comments included: effect of staff changes on Hair and Beauty and of model going forward; stabilizing drop-out rates going forward; students with high needs and support with attendance; improving transition with schools and with data sharing; Applied General drop and possible reasons; and a full discussion on attainment measures and what was reported on DfE tables (no local data was yet available).

5.8 Adult Provision – C Ramsden

A further verbal was given by C Ramsden who highlighted an improving picture.

Discussion included: English GCSE – interventions and predictions; Access; the gap between English and Maths and the role of the attendance officers; student satisfaction; distance learning questionnaire; improved adult drop-out rate and reasons for high levels generally.

5.9 English and Maths – K Burgess

The English and Maths report was received.

Governors' questions and comments included: reasons for some inconsistencies in English teaching and related training; main areas requiring support; the strategy used within the November Resit and wider resit strategy and difficulties for students both locally and nationally; staff recruitment issues including: appropriate timings for adverts and possible linkages with secondary schools; support for new/inexperienced staff with class and behaviour management; and maths teacher recruitment.

Agreed action for K Burgess to visit Acklam Grange's Math and English Departments

5.10 Higher Education Update - P Stone

The written report was received for information and P Stone gave an update on the HE Conference recently attended.

Governors' questions and comments included: whether there had been financial risks with the late submission to the OFs (no); OfS communications; recruitment and capacity.

5.11 Subcontracted Outward Collaborative Provision (OCP) – J Chance

J Chance detailed the subcontractor provisions including where there were any concerns.

He also outlined the request to add SETA to the provision with the acquisition of TTE. The Committee then **approved** the recommendation to add SETA to the subcontractors provision to the Governing Body on 23 March 2020 (subject to due diligence).

6. Department and Directorate Updates

6.1 A Levels – C Yule

C Yule presented a full report.

Governors' questions and comments included: progress within Maths and Sociology; student issues; changes in reporting from Learning Plus to DfE ready reckoner and effects of that (lower measures); some individual departments were discussed; minimum numbers on courses and wider A Level Strategy; and retention improvements with better IAG.

6.2 Health and Care – C Ramsden/K Cutler/E Pargeter

K Cutler, E Pargeter and C Ramsden reported on this area including: positive predictions against national rate (9-10% above), more applications and ongoing work to improve.

Governors' questions and comments included: speed of improvement in relation to quality; new staff and support; the improving picture from staff (via the staff survey) and in student outcomes; Health and Social Care predicted achievement improvements at both Level 1 and 3; incidents of safeguarding and how staff are managing those; English progress; wider debate about why collecting data at AP1 and of possible changes; how the Mix It Up programme was working and numbers within.

6.3 Employability and Projects – R Gray/C Ramsden

R Gray and C Ramsden gave an overview of the area and of the increased volume and improvements in Distance Learning. Z Lewis gave detail of the current over-delivery which was unfunded and of the wish to grow the provision in the future.

Governors discussed: progression and destinations (including tracking); areas/courses of growth (mental health, core competencies; business admin and autism); referrals from the DWP and the positive feedback from the Combined Authority and the effective strategy of more community based work; and progress towards improving the Grade 3 SAR.

6.4 The following areas were confirmed as continuing to be strong and as agreed, were not reported on formally at the meeting of the Standards Committee: *Business and Education; Hair and Beauty; Progression Studies; Catering and Hospitality; Sport and Recreation; Travel and Tourism; Computing; Visual and Performing Arts; Engineering and Construction.*

Any in-year issues were discussed within the relevant cross college report.

7. Dates of Next Meetings 2019-2020– A Coleman-Cooke

7.1 Monday 18 May 2020 at 2pm

8. Proposed Dates for 2020-21

8.1 Monday 14 December 2020 at 2pm

G Cumiskey outlined the reasoning for this later date for the first meeting would enable AP1 and AP2 to merge and the SARs will also have been completed. Governors considered the move a sensible one.

8.2. Monday 8 March 2021 at 2pm

8.3. Monday 17 May 2021 at 2pm

9. Any other Business – none taken

10. Members Discussion – not taken.

It was acknowledged by the Committee that there was some good progress which was very encouraging, and also lots to do.

The meeting closed at 5.10pm