

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 14.12.2020

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE FOR RELEVANT ITEM:

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

A Stephenson (EM).

2. Declarations of Interest – no declarations

3. Unconfirmed Minutes of 29.06.2020 – A Coleman Cooke

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

The outstanding matter arising was on the agenda (*Item 6.11*).

5. Principal/CEO's Update

Z Lewis gave an overview drawing together the items to follow referencing: the new style thermometers; progress within each of the Departments; the need for further development and review of Apprenticeships and the Governing Body's role in this.

The Committee considered: achievement rates; and had a full discussion on apprenticeships including: employers communication future improvements, sector issues (under Covid), TTE success; consistency across the Department; high grades; MyDay app and retention.

6. Cross College Reports

6.1 College Self Assessment Report 2019-2020 was received by the Committee.

Governors discussed the report fully including: SARs; Ofsted expectations and the EIF; key metrics; how to get to 'outstanding'; quantification of the thermometer measures; updated Strategic KPIs; possible clarifications and style/semantic considerations; key weaknesses and areas of improvement.

The Committee **agreed** to recommend the 2019 / 2020 College Self-Assessment Report be approved as a Grade 2 (*Good*) by the Governing Body at its meeting on 17 December 2020 subject to minor amendments suggested from the Committee (*Action by G Cumiskey*).

6.2 College Quality Improvement Plan 2020-2021

J Chance outlined the key areas for development for 2020-21.

Discussion included: Apprenticeships; action planning for department improvement; online teaching and learning; MyDay; and ongoing/future digital innovation over next 5-10 years.

Governors **agreed** to recommend the QulP to the Governing Body on 17 December 2020, subject to additional points being incorporated (*Action by J Chance*).

6.3 Teaching, Learning and Assessment Update

The report was received.

Discussion and questions included: observation of online learning; learning walk outcomes; GCSE grade inflation and possible effects; and CPD.

6.4 Progress Measures and KPIs Update

J Chance gave a brief overview of the report including: areas of progress; withdrawal, retention and attendance rates information.

Governors' discussion included: English and Maths progress (including online) and actions; Adult improvements; HE; retention and sector related impact of Covid (particularly in relation to Apprenticeships); remote working accessibility issues for some; in-college behaviour (very positive); on-line learning platforms; Open Day success; safeguarding; and wider risk considerations for in-college learning.

6.5 Apprenticeships

A full report including QUIP was provided by S Ankers and M Gardiner.

Governors congratulated the team within the very difficult circumstances.

Discussion included: high grades; TTE success measures; national rate measures and reasons/actions for courses which had not met those measures; impact of Covid; and confirmation of a future review of apprenticeship offer by SLT and then Governors.

6.6 Study Programme Report

Governors congratulated the Team on the consistency and improvements within the Study programme area overall.

Discussion included: future impact of inflated grades on future progress rates; government guidance issues for the sector; recruitment including feeder schools; A Level admissions processes and assessment changes.

6.7 Adult Provision

C Ramsden drew out the headlines from the report including provision during Covid.

Questions/discussion included: impact on some ACL provision during Covid; ESOL – College achievement and national picture; progression onto college courses; Basic Skills; and positive enrolment onto Adults.

J Golightly and M McClintock left the meeting (4pm)

6.8 English and Maths

K Burgess drew attention to aspects of the report including: personalised learning; increased in-college learning; staffing; catch up funding and positive staff recruitment.

Discussion and questions included: accuracy of early assessment of learners; online attendance and actions; November resits; and motivation of students.

The Committee congratulated the Team on its progress.

6.9 Higher Education Update

P Stone gave a brief overview highlighting that there were no estimated grades required therefore outcomes were a fair reflection of actual achievement.

Questions and comments included: excellent NSS survey; progression within College; reputation and positive effect on enrolment; OfS; teacher training applications; and Access enrolment.

Governors congratulated the Team.

6.10 Subcontracted Outward Collaborative Provision (OCP)

J Chance gave a brief overview confirming that all providers were delivering well and that there were possible further delivery bidding opportunities.

Governors' discussed the nature of the Unicorn Centre provision and changes to support successful delivery.

6.11 Revised Quality Policy

The revised policy was presented to the Committee by J Chance. He confirmed that this would be combined with the Quality Strategy going forward.

Governors' asked that greater reference to employers and work experience be incorporated into the future combined document (*Action by J Chance*).

The Committee **approved** the revised policy.

7. Department and Directorate Updates

7.1 A Levels

C Yule gave a brief overview of the Department, individual subjects; greater staffing stability and a focus on high grades for 2020-21.

Governors congratulated the A Levels team on the improvements.

Questions included: follow on walk throughs actions; progress particularly with Covid disruption; mock exam timing changes to support learners; online learning; increased numbers for Psychology and Sociology and pre-course projects to ensure appropriate selection of courses; increasing retention including careers advice, work experience and other offers of employer led support; predictions; and class sizes.

7.2 Hair and Beauty

P Watt gave an overview of last year's improvements and of the positive start to the new academic year including higher attendance and retention figures and greater staff stability.

Governors' questions included: new future programmes/offer; progression routes; impact of Covid; positive development of the teams; and drop-out rates.

7.3 Employability and Projects

R Gray drew attention to aspects of her report including: increases to referrals; popularity of information, guidance and advice sessions;

Governors congratulated the team on a good start to the year.

Discussion included: sectors of increased activity (e.g. security, call centres, warehousing) and support; outside issues for learners; and progression tracking.

Governors asked for the relevant additional figures to be included for the various courses through the year in future reports. (*Action by R Gray*).

7.4 TTE

S Ankers gave a brief update to his report including changes to processes to embed the culture and increased roles to further support the function.

Governors discussed: the apprenticeship programme success and reasons why; study programmes historically and going forward; quality improvement actions; finances; Maths attendance; and the effects of Covid.

Governors congratulated the Team on overall integration and progress over this first year.

The following areas were not reported on formally at the meeting of the Standards Committee: Catering and Hospitality; Sport and Recreation; Travel and Tourism; Computing; Visual and Performing Arts; Engineering; Construction; Health and Care; Business and Education and Progression Studies.

Any in-year issues were discussed in the relevant Cross College reports

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

- i) Monday 8 March 2021 at 2pm
- ii) Monday 17 May 2021 at 2pm

9. Any other Business – none taken

10. Members Discussion

Members had a brief discussion on :

- further streamlining reports and combining speakers (*Action by G Cumiskey/Z Lewis*)
- work experience issues and possible alternatives (including virtual offers).

The Committee wished to thank all staff, on behalf of the Governing Body, for all their work during this period of extended pressure. This was extended to Z Lewis and the SLT/CMT in leading the College.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm