

# THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

## CONFIRMED MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 12.07.2021

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

**OFFICERS:** S Ankers (AP), J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), G Duffy-McGhie (DOP), Z Foster (Clerk), C Ramsden (AP), J Steel (VP), P Watt (AP), J Wells (Head of Digital Curriculum), C Yule (DOP).

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

### 1. Apologies for Absence

C Cannon (EM), C Cooney (CG), J Golightly (CG), S Lane (CG), M Laidler (CG).

### 2. Declarations of Interest – no declarations

### 3. Taking Teaching Higher Presentation and Questions

Z Lewis introduced the presentation which had originally been given to the College Management Team. She also informed Governors of the College's voluntary involvement in an OFSTED pilot which would take place in two week's time (including the involvement of two governors).

#### 3.1 Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Proposal

Z Lewis outlined the key changes in the FE and wider environment which encouraged a change to the teaching strategy of the College, to be renamed 'Taking Teaching Higher' strategy. This would have a focus on investing in both staff and teaching and learning via a two-prong approach of CPD and quality assurance). Further detail was also given to the additional resources required to support the strategy and of additions to SLT, the creation of a new Senior Leadership Teaching Team (SLTT) and CMTT. The key change would be a devolved resource, responsibility and accountability for improving Teaching and Learning and developing students.

G Cumiskey, G Duffy-McGhie, C Yule and C Ramsden outlined the key changes to the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and how the College intended to respond to this through the new strategy. Key considerations in the development of the approach were outlined with detail given regarding the evidence informed approach to teaching and learning.

C Ramsden talked of the key lessons learned from the recent ITE report and changes to the delivery model as a result.

J Steel outlined the requirements of the EIF in relation to behaviour and attitudes and personal development (particularly safeguarding updates in relation to the recent review of Sexual Abuse) and how this was being incorporated into the College Personal Development programme.

P Watt and S Ankers gave further detail of the requirements and expectations in relation to behaviour and attitudes and personal development and how the College was responding.

M Gaze highlighted the need to show interconnectedness between the curriculum and intent and evidence this in the curriculum plan.

J Chance then outlined the new Course Review Process for FE (HE already having a defined process in place) which would be in line with the EIF and give more accountability to curriculum teaching leaders (CTLs). He detailed the key aspects of the resulting report and of improvement actions for the course (often linking into key themes across the College). It was intended that the process would give a greater formality and be less data driven.

Z Lewis gave a full account of the Digital Strategy 2021-25 including: a review of the VLE system which had resulted in the future use of Office 365; Digital Champions; and a digital leaders group.

Z Lewis summarized all of the key changes which had significant support from staff including: over £300K of investment in teaching and learning; devolvement of responsibility, resource and accountability; strengthening teachers and middle managers' understanding of why, how and when we deliver content; how we develop behaviour, attitudes, skills, personal development and assess impact and what we can do to improve; supporting our digital transformation strategy and raising the bar to 'teach back better'.

### The Teaching and Learning Strategy 2021-2023

Z Lewis gave the background to the strategy including the new evidence base and development of the professional culture (Taking Teaching Higher Cycle) aligned to the ETF professional standards. The Teaching and Learning Draft Strategy would go to the September Strategic Board Meeting for approval.

Governors' questions and discussion included: the benefits of external CPD including regional and national groups and ability to release staff; (including abatement for Heads of T&L); ETF Outstanding Teaching and Learning course and related bids; the start place for the Teaching and Learning Strategy and where the College will be in a year's time; how the theoretical evidence base was arrived at for the College and of wider use locally and nationally; the process for consistency across the College and how this is directed; how the College would feedback and how this would be measured – through termly focused reviews ideally ahead of Standards meetings which would get summary reports; and a possible external review of High Needs.

Z Lewis detailed the quality assurance reporting suite of indicators for teaching and learning reports next academic year for governors which would ensure a greater consistency across the College. Governors were supportive of the approach and **approved** their usage.

### **3.2 Standards Committee Future Agendas**

Z Lewis went through the proposed report structure for future Standards agendas outlining the reasons for changes.

Governor discussion and questions included: the definition of 'teacher' (one who works 3 hours or more in relation to occasional staff); assurances re assessing the interconnectivity of the six week drop out rate and initial advice and guidance (through Departments) and the detail within the SARs sessions; careers development and how this was approached through both the curriculum and wider personal development programme and six week drop out and careers guidance referrals.

### **3.3 Self Assessment Format**

J Chanced outlined the five proposed SAR format for 2020 / 2021 SAR reports:

- Further alignment towards the EIF
- Thermometers for grading judgements
- Volume tables at the front to allow for judgement of proportionality
- Implementation divided into provision types
- Separating behaviour/attitude and personal development

Governors asked that intent with a view of base line assessing this in September. Action by J Chance.

### **3.4 Destinations Report**

J Chance outlined the full range of destination data accumulated from the past year.

Governors' discussion and questions included: clarification re construction Level 1 numbers and detail of progress to Level 2 and 3; accuracy of NEETs figures and wider discussion in relation to NEETs; the complexities between DfE reporting of destinations (leavers only) and wider College reporting of progress within College; greater differentiation for apprenticeships (apprenticeships; higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships); the requirement for all learners to know progress linked to what they have learned and associated expectations on leaders to have this detailed knowledge.

### **3.5 ITE Inspection Update**

C Ramsden gave an update on the course and success outcomes for students this year.

She then outlined the five key areas against which the action plan was set. There would be a full moderation of resources later in August ahead of the new academic year and the action plan would also be further reviewed at that point. She outlined positive progress so far.

A Coleman-Cooke, on behalf of the Committee, thanked C Ramsden and the team for the comprehensive update and work done thus far.

### **3.6 Quality Policy**

- . The quality policy had been further reviewed to align to ISO9000 standards and to incorporate TTE.

It was confirmed that the renaming of the Standards Committee to Curriculum and Standards would be combined with a revision to the Terms of Reference which was planned for approval at the October meeting of the Governing Body.

Further clarification was sought on staffing numbers and areas of potential vulnerability.

The Committee then **approved** the revised Quality Policy

## **4. Revised Dates of Meetings 2021-2022**

**4.1 Monday 29 November 2021 at 2pm**

**4.2 Monday 4 April 2022 at 2pm**

**4.3 Monday 11 July 2022 at 2pm**

Committee members were encouraged to sign up to the SARs sessions on 5th and 8th November 2021 if there were able.

## **5. Any other Business**

- a) TTE Monitoring Visit – M Gaze, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed the outcome of the monitoring visit, acknowledging the hard work of the team of staff.

S Ankers gave some wider detail of the visit and the work of TTE particularly the increased involvement of employers in the review process which had been very successful.

Governors discussed the potential impact on apprenticeships with the higher increase of Covid in the NE region and Z Lewis updated the Committee on the most recent DfE advice and that the College would reassess advice, including the wearing of masks over the summer break.

- b) A Coleman Cooke thanked everyone for their input over the year.

*The meeting closed at 3.55pm*