



**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER
2021 AT 1.30 PM REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS**

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MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS

Present: Alan Brady (Chair), Sue Bradley, Angela Cruz, Phil Dover, Vanessa Simpson, Mandie Stravino

In attendance: Kate Cox, Aaron Denton, Melanie Lanser, Kate Martin, Mark Rugman, Heather Simcox, Matthew Smith
Rose Matthews (Clerk)

	Action	Date
01/21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE No apologies for absence were received.		
02/21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM All members were eligible and the meeting was quorate. There were no new declarations.		
03-21-22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2021 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2021 were formally approved and signed as a true and accurate record.		
04/21-22 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.		
05/21-22 TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW An annual review of the Terms of Reference had been undertaken with no revisions proposed. The existing Terms of Reference were approved by the Committee.		
06/21-22 GROUP SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT, INCLUDING GROUP SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN LITTLE EXPLORERS SELF-EVALUATION FORM (Also incorporating the Safeguarding Annual Report, Student Voice Annual Report and Behaviour for Learning Annual Report		

The Director of Teaching Learning and Improvement shared a comprehensive presentation covering the Group Self-Assessment process, which included the 24 validation panels, all of which had governor representation and had allowed for interrogation of data by governors prior to this meeting.

The key judgements were:

	Judgement Grade
Overall Effectiveness	2
Quality of Education	2
Behaviour and Attitudes	2
Personal Development	2
Leadership and Management	2
Education Programmes for Young People	2
Adult Learning Programmes	2
Apprenticeships	2
Provision for Students with High Needs	1

The key strengths and areas for improvement were discussed in detail as outlined in the presentation which informed the Group's Quality Improvement Plan

The Annual Safeguarding Report was presented which focussed on the number of disclosures compared with the previous year, with the key concern relating to mental health.

The Nursery Operations Manager presented the headline summary for Little Explorers Self-Evaluation Form. Overall Effectiveness remained at Grade 1. Each judgement area was discussed and continuous improvement shared.

Members questioned the decrease in progress for Entry Level 1 students and asked if it was due to the pandemic and less face-to-face teaching. The Director of Teaching Learning and Improvement agreed. The move to online and blended learner can be slower for students that struggle to learn and need social interaction.

Members also commended the process, by having the opportunity to join the SAR/QIP Validation Panels they experienced a greater depth of areas they didn't normally link with.

Sue Bradley also commented she had recently visited the nursery and could evidence herself the headlines in the report.

MEMBERS SUPPORTED THE JUDGEMENTS IN THE SAR AND THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WHICH WOULD BE SUMMARISED AT THE CORPORATION MEETING ON 13 DECEMBER 2021.

07/21-22 EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL STATEMENT

The Corporation has a requirement under public sector duty to publish its intent in relation to Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDED TO CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL.

Chair 13/12

08/21-22 CURRICULUM (TECHNICAL AND ACADEMIC) PERFORMANCE

The Deputy Principal presented the Curriculum Performance Report.

16-18 students had hit allocation and T Level figures were within tolerance. Members noted the teacher assessed grades had led to some students finding higher level courses stretching.

HE recruitment was on target with the areas of growth relating to animal care and equine. Adult recruitment likely to increase later in the year due to courses later in the year.

Discussions took place with regards to attendance with some excellent attendance at 100%, but those below 80% were being challenged and this included parental engagement. The city schools were now providing meaningful information on attendance from our students' previous schools, but one third of students were under the College's target at school.

Retention was positive for both 16-18 and adults. The impact of covid had affected subject retention due to limited IAG, with some students changing subjects in the first few weeks.

There were a range of behaviours which was to be expected due to the impact of Covid-19, with teachers reporting study skills and learning process are not at expected levels in some instances, but teachers were supporting students with this.

Interviews for 2022-23 had commenced with good attendance at open evenings.

UCAS application data showed entry numbers are steadily growing in vocational and technical areas. Deep dives were taking place with students who hadn't yet applied to HE.

EDI headlines showed improvement with DANCOP seeing an improved picture. More Pakistani students were going into HE.

Members acknowledged the work the College were doing to keep students and the work being undertaken to support those with lower attendance.

They went on to question the low-level disruption and asked if teachers were dealing with that. Where teachers were

experienced they could deal with it, but some of the technical areas proved more challenging with Study Coaches.

09/21-22 APPRENTICESHIP PERFORMANCE

The Vice Principal Apprenticeships and Employer Relations provided an overview for Members.

Recruitment was significantly ahead and showed a positive picture at this point in the year.

Members discussed attendance, and achievement was encouraging.

The way in which Employer and Apprenticeship Satisfaction had been calculated had changed which had impacted on the response.

Learning walks had been completed with support from the Improvement Practitioner with no concerns.

Work with Rolls-Royce continues with outstanding outcomes for apprentices and continued partnership activity with DCG, Nottingham and Burton colleges through the Strategic Development Fund has created new opportunities for employers.

The ability to recruit and retain staff continues to be one of the biggest challenges and the team were working closely with HR diversify how we recruit and retain competent staff.

Members asked about the Strategic Development Fund and what stage it was at. Employer engagement links have been established with courses being developed by the curriculum teams to support those clients.

The Business Centre at the College was generating a lot of interest across D2N2 with Fujitsu supporting the digital transformation element where employers and employees can work together to respond and deliver the courses they want.

10/21-22 CURRICULUM AND QUALITY RISK REGISTER

The Risk Register was presented, the key risks had already been discussed as part of the Curriculum performance agenda item.

11/21-22 LITTLE EXPLORERS OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE RISK

The Nursery Operations Manager shared progress towards the Quality Improvement Plan. Until November the Nursery was at 91% occupancy with an equal split of boys and girl.

Cohort tracking indicated there had been accelerated progress in relation to children's personal, social and emotional development. There had been lots of work and intervention taking place but

progress had been slow, until the Autumn term, which saw a massive growth.

At the end of November the pressures on meeting statutory rations in rooms was raised. Recruitment was proving a challenge and four staff were due to be lost on maternity leave and due to ongoing illness issues. The decision was made to suspend the Baby Room until next summer as no agency staff were available. Governors heard how the Operations Manager had written to all the 20 parents affected, the decision had been met with a lot of support as the wellbeing of the children was paramount and the Nursery could not have met its statutory duties.

12/21-22 STUDENT UNION ACTIVITY REPORT

The Student Union President delivered a summary of the work undertaken by the Students' Union over the past year throughout the pandemic.

A site had been set up called 'Your Union', which had a range of information, including the Presidents Blog, Totem Card information and links to DCG departments, such as the Welfare Department and key documents.

The team actively engaged in social media quickly as a way to keep in contact with students.

The activities to engage with students were shared and included student rep meetings, lunch with the leadership.

Actions were taken to address points raised in student surveys, for example target grades and feedback on work. Team managers addressed with staff at team meetings and PMR sessions.

Positive feedback was received from the surveys on next steps and students agreed the library resources were helpful. Overall 98% felt safe at College.

Clubs and societies continued to meet online supported by the SU.

Key achievements in relation to awards and events were raised, culminating in the Character Education kitemark.

The Deputy CEO said the Students' Union had done a tremendous amount of work to engage with students through a range of activities and the SU President is visible across the sites.

Members questioned the number of students involved in the clubs and societies, which varied from 80-90 in the Mental Health Society and around 100 in the LGBT+ Group.

13/21-22 STAFF VOICE

The Staff Governor explained she had been involved in the SAR and QIP process which had been very thorough and allowed reflection over the past year.

She said it had been interesting to hear from the Students' Union, she saw the students from a management point of view, but it was interesting to hear from the Students' Union. She said it would have been nice to see how the societies and activities are split across the sites.

14/21-22 POLICY REVIEW

The International Policy had been reviewed with minor changes proposed.

THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY.

The meeting finished at 3.15 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____