



**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2019
AT 1.00 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM, THE ROUNDHOUSE**

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MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2019 AT 1.00 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

Present: Phil Dover (Chair), Sagar Johnson, Janet Morgan, Graham Schuhmacher, Mandie Stravino

In attendance: Aaron Denton, April Hayhurst, Sue Hopewell, Helen Jefferson, Kate Martin, Heather Simcox, Lisa Simpson.
Rose Matthews (Clerk)

26/18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Jack Atwal, Sue Bradley and Kate Cusick.

27/18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM

All members were eligible and the meeting was quorate. There were no new declarations.

28/18-19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 were formally approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

29/18-19 MATTERS ARISING

22/18-19 The Education Inspection Framework would be presented at a future meeting.

Feedback from the Joint Area Inspection for Derby City Council was positive in relation to the Group and inspectors were satisfied with the Group's robust procedures.

Members questioned whether there had been improvements within the City. It was noted the multi-agency meetings had supported improvement generally, with changes made to the membership of the Safeguarding Board moving forward, which DCG would no longer be invited to attend.

Action	Date
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30/18-19 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:

- **Supporting Mental Health**
- **Supporting LGBT and Young People**
- **Tackling Gang Culture and Knife Crime**

Supporting Mental Health

The Deputy Chief Executive explained the focus on these topics was in response to a request by Richard Brewell.

Members were informed by the Director of Services for Students, the areas sat within the Student Engagement Strategy, which was to ensure students deployed positive behaviours and attitudes to prepare them as professionals at work and as social contributors in life.

The Group were supporting students to develop the skills to be resilient through a range of activities, supported by enrichment and tutorials.

Students welfare was at the heart of the process, working with multi-agencies to ensure a welfare package was available to support those with mental ill health.

Additional counselling sessions had been organised, along with the introduction of mental health first aiders.

A range of self-help tools and resources were in place to support.

Members questioned the support the Group provided with the transition from the College to university or to the workplace. This was through enrichment and by developing a mental health toolkit, supporting students by showing it is something everyone experiences at some point and showing the tools to support are available but students have to self-manage.

Supporting LGBT+ and Young People

Considerable work has been undertaken to support the LGBT plus agenda. Student feedback on the Transgender Policy has allowed the Group to revisit and rewrite the Policy, calling on input from external expertise.

Training has been implemented for employees, aimed at challenging the thought process. Work has also been undertaken with Management Information Systems to capture gender identity.

Tackling Gang Culture and Knife Crime

The Group had traditionally worked alongside the Police, however, with funding now dissolved, the Group was looking at other ways to maintain the relationships with

agencies and provide mentors to support the student population.

Members were informed of the other agencies the Group worked in partnership with, such as the Counter Extremism Community Group. Al-Hurraya, Open Centre – Faith Trail, local faith leaders, along with the DCC Community Safety Team.

Drug awareness had been introduced, with a proportion of employees undertaking drug awareness training, highlighting the signs or symptoms to look for. A bank of people had also been trained to deliver knife crime training.

Visits with schools had been undertaken to share information to ensure when a student joined the Group any barriers to learning could be supported.

31/18-19 CURRICULUM STANDARDS

- **REPORT ON PERFORMANCE**

The latest report on curriculum standards was presented in a new concise dashboard style format. A final position statement would be provided once the final data was available, but predictions were presented.

Discussions took place in relation to the attendance and how this was recorded. The team were looking to undertake a 'deep dive' into register processes and highlighting any training needs to ensure accurate recording of attendance, for example work placement is not considered absence, although absent from class, etc. The Deputy Chief Executive expressed her disappointment the figures had not changed, but this was being investigated.

A team event was held yesterday for all employees and attendance was raised, highlighting it was the responsibility of everyone, not just the students – engaging teachers and also setting an example with staff attendance.

The area achieving the lowest attendance levels was transitions. The delivery in that area has been remodelled to support those learners who were not yet ready for mainstream education and rebranded as STEPS.

Members were also informed the number of written warnings had decreased, with time-outs increasing, showing intervention, not exclusion.

A new scorecard pilot was underway from September 2019.

The Scheme of Work tutorial would be rolled out with training for all employees to ensure it was fit for purpose

and complied with Gatsby benchmarks and the new Education Inspection Framework.

Safeguarding disclosures were shared with the highest numbers coming from A Levels, Animal Care and Early Years.

Members provided positive feedback on the new style report and asked that it be RAG rated in the future.

32/18-19 APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

• REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

The Director of Apprenticeships and Workbased Learning shared the performance report for the area.

Overall achievement for apprenticeships was positive with 'at risk' areas highlighted.

Student and employer satisfaction surveys provided positive feedback, with FE Choices increasing by 9%.

The area was currently projected at amber, but on plan to achieve a green RAG rating.

33/18-19 CURRICULUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Vice Principal shared delivered a presentation summarising the Business Planning process, which highlighted the planning tools used and the detailed process undertaken to ensure the curriculum offer met the needs of local, regional and national employers, along with the LEP priorities.

The Group's vocational offer had been mapped against T Level pathways, but it was noted around 50% of job vacancies/priorities were outside of those routes and as such there would be further work required in those areas.

The future vision for the colleges was shared with Members, with a change in strategy, moving towards local provision. The Chief Executive explained devolution had featured highly on the Risk Register and that had now started to materialise, contracts had been lost in devolved areas and the intention was to reintroduce evening classes for adults to reskill or upskill.

34/18-19 DESTINATIONS REPORT

The Vice Principal shared the 16-18 destinations outcomes for 2017-18 and presented a comparison against the previous year.

The highest percentage remained in education, with second highest moving onto paid employment.

35/18-19 LINK GOVERNOR VISITS

The Committee Chair had met with the Director of Maths and English and her two Team Managers as the exams were commencing and had carried out some learning walks.

Jack Atwal had attended the St James Centre and Southgate and noted a well-planned curriculum offer was evident and diversity was proactively promoted and celebrated.

Jack had also met with the Head of Inclusion and had highlighted the work with the local authority to improve destination planning and the exploration of other funding possibilities.

The Committee Chair had a long telephone conversation with the Director of Higher Education to discuss the Access and Participation Plan and approved through a Chair's action.

The Vice Principal explained some lengthy feedback had been received from the OFS mainly process driven and relating to data returns. The Executive Director of MIS was working closely with the Director of Higher Education.

36/18-19 STUDENT VOICE

The new Student Governor, Sagar Johnson, provide an update for the Committee on the methods to seek student feedback.

Recruitment to the Student Council had commenced, with each campus having their own Student Council and Vice President through the Students' Union. This will be in addition to academy and site meetings with an end of year gathering.

37/18-19 POLICIES

The Student Bullying and Harassment Policy had been reviewed and was presented for approval.

RATIFIED: The Committee approved the Student Bullying and Harassment Policy.

The meeting finished at 2.30 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

