



Education Committee Minutes

Meeting	Education Committee	Date	Thursday 18 November 2021
Location	Executive Boardroom, Broadstairs College	Time	2.30pm
Membership	John Korzeniewski (JK, Chair), Graham Razey (Chief Executive Officer), Ella Brocklebank (EB), Richard Brooks (RB), Miranda Chapman (MC), Jason Howard (JH), Natalie Garner (NG), Peter Troke (PT)		
In Attendance	Tammy Mitchell (TM) (CEO EKC Schools Trust) Lucy McLeod (LM) (Chief Further and Higher Education Officer) Nick Holbrook-Sutcliffe (NSS) (Chief Curriculum Officer) Sharon Hollingsworth (Director of Governance) Kerry Hickmott (Minute Clerk)		

(Italics denotes absence)

	ITEM	COMMENTS	ACTION
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Richard Brooks and Natalie Garner joined by Teams.	
2	Declarations of Interest	There were no additional declarations to the meeting than those declared as standing.	
3	Minutes of the meeting held 17 th June 2021	The minutes and the confidential of the Education Committee meeting held on 17 th June 2021 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.	

4	Matters Arising not covered by this agenda	<p>Item 5 - The CEO advised that a meeting is arranged with Thanet District Council to discuss the successful outcome of the Levelling Up bid.</p> <p>Item 9 - The report from the Canterbury College Nursery Ofsted visit is now public and can be moved from the confidential minutes into the main set of minutes.</p>	
5	Terms of Reference	<p>The terms of reference for the committee were discussed and agreed.</p> <p>AGREED - The terms of reference for the Education Committee</p>	
6	Update on T Levels	<p>The Chief Curriculum Officer provided an update on the progress of T Levels.</p> <p>There was now a focus on readiness for next year which is being rolled out to plan. A centralised marketing campaign is being worked through.</p> <p>In addition, to complement the T Levels provision, a broad spread of A Levels is planned for next year. There are already a number of people signed up for the sixth form open day on 30th November. Feedback from School Head Teachers has understandably not been positive. Individual meetings have been arranged with three Head teachers to discuss their concerns.</p> <p>Governors were comfortable with the progress being made.</p> <p>NOTED - The update and progress on T Levels</p>	
7	Further Education Outcomes 2020-21	<p>The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer presented a paper outlining the overall achievements and breakdown of results for 2020-21.</p> <p>The data presented was for all qualifications and QAR match data excluding teacher assessed grades. It was acknowledged that the two sets of data present a different picture.</p>	

	<p>Functional skills achievement grades have significantly impacted adversely on the overall outcomes. It was evident that on-line lessons for level 2 FS have affected students.</p> <p>The 20-21 GCSE grades were teacher assessed grades like the year before but without the algorithm being used. It was confirmed that the grades the Group awarded for GCSEs went through a rigorous process.</p> <p>Achievement gaps have narrowed compared to last year in some areas. Concern had been noted with Care Leavers and ESOL students who are particularly vulnerable groups that struggled with on-line learning.</p> <p>In the QAR Match data, achievement has gone up for young people and adults. In some cases, it is higher for students with learning difficulties and those with EHCPs.</p> <p>Apprenticeships have made positive progress, although the 24 years+ learner framework had not improved due to a legacy group of veterinary nurses at Canterbury College who withdrew 2 years ago.</p> <p>There was a notable increase in mental health cases, which affected vulnerable students studying on-line.</p> <p>Functional skills are a major priority, and there is a focus this year on trying to bank early achievements.</p> <p>Every student, even students who have achieved a level 4, have been given a screening test, as the teacher assessed grades are not necessarily reliable, and students may need additional support. There have been some significant knowledge gaps in English and maths.</p> <p>Preparing students for exams going forward is a key focus as some students have never sat exams and therefore lots of practice and preparation is required.</p>	
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		<p>Questions were invited.</p> <p>LM was thanked for splitting out the data to provide governors with a deeper understanding.</p> <p>The impact of the early actions will be reported in the Quality Improvement Plan at the next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The Further Education Outcomes 2020-21</p>	
8	2021-22 Quality Improvement Plan for Further Education	<p>The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer presented a paper on the Quality Improvement Plan for terms 1 and 2.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that it was difficult to make a judgement on last year due to the pandemic which meant that the majority of additional wider experience and enrichment activities were not able to take place.</p> <p>Position statements will be written should the Group get a call from Ofsted. It was agreed that a focus is needed on the activities in place to recover from pandemic.</p> <p>The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer acknowledged that student progress has declined from the progress made in teaching and learning pre-pandemic. This was a national trend.</p> <p>Covid cases are increasing once again and on-line teaching is being kept under review.</p> <p>The three areas of focus are on instilling a truly inclusive classroom; purposeful learning and assessment; and aspirational learning environments.</p> <p>Governors were happy with the approach taken for the QiP.</p>	

		<p>The recent Senior Leadership consultation looked at adding in additional resource for education improvement.</p> <p>The presented QiP focused on the immediate issues. Whilst it is not an exhaustive list, it is an area of focus for this time. The priorities are focused on getting teaching back to where it needs to be.</p> <p>English and maths is still an issue. All students have been assessed to ascertain their level. In the past we have focused on those students who haven't achieved a grade 4, however it is apparent when writing essays for example, that perhaps the standards are not where they need to be. There is a risk that some students with a grade 4 will not be able to complete their course if additional tuition is not in place.</p> <p>Mental Health first aiders sit within the teacher cohort. It is planned to have one Mental Health First Aid instructor for each department across all business units (54 staff by March 2022). The training lasts for 3 years and it is planned that these staff will deliver first aid training to cohorts of students. Students will be introduced to their mental health first aider and they will train students to be more resilient. In addition, the CCF project has a mental health strand per college working with Morley College and North Kent College to work with students to find out what they would like included and workshops will then be rolled out.</p> <p>Looking at the quality of teaching, it was noted that sickness levels are increasing in line with rising covid cases. It was clarified that expectations haven't lowered. Teaching staff are expected to be on site to educate the students moving forward.</p> <p>It was queried whether the resilience of staff has been affected. The lockdown suited some staff and students. It was noted that it was important to address the new normal and the stamina of staff and students is high in most cases.</p> <p>The Inclusion agenda was a high priority which includes discussions on the student voice. LM meets with the Student Union presidents across the Group termly. The main issue cited from all</p>	
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9	2021-22 Quality Improvement Plan for Nurseries	<p>The Chief Education Officer presented the Quality Improvement Plan for the Nurseries.</p> <p>It was noted that all the Nurseries have remained open apart from the national closure period.</p> <p>A key focus was supporting staff in remaining positive and excited about their jobs. There is a national recruitment issue in Nurseries with around 60 job adverts across Kent for Early Years Practitioners. Staff are working collaboratively to instil passion and a sense of purpose in their role.</p> <p>The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is used to define the expected level of education however it was noted that the younger the child the more the interpretation is unclear. For example, Awe and Wonder is considered a technical term in early years meaning spiritual (non-religious) education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED – Progress against the Nurseries Quality Improvement Plan for 2021 – 2022</p>	
10	Education CPIs	<p>The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer presented the CPIs which have been calculated based on the combination of all education business units and are used to track and monitor the progress of each college and analyse whether the quality improvement plan actions are having an</p>	

		<p>impact. However, it was noted that some CPIs may need some nuance and each college has its own context.</p> <p>The target and comparison to previous years is not relevant, but progress month by month is important and will provide confidence of the progress being made. Attendance is important.</p> <p>Attendance, retention along with Teaching, Learning and Assessment are the key focuses.</p> <p>[15:54 – GR left the meeting]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED – The Education CPIs.</p>	
11	Annual report on student exclusions	<p>The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer provided governors with the 2020-21 annual report on stage 3 student disciplinary hearings and exclusions.</p> <p>Stage 3 disciplinaries decreased last year largely because students were in bubbles.</p> <p>The number of exclusions is very low. The majority of exclusions were in Construction and Engineering.</p> <p>Excluding a student is an extreme situation and used as a last resort. Generally, staff try to give students another chance as it is recognised that it can have a huge impact on their life.</p> <p>The data does not depict where a student has appeared twice after being given another chance.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that there is zero tolerance on drugs however violence is not always as clear cut.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of disciplinary meetings were undertaken on-line last year.</p> <p>[16:04 - EB left the meeting]</p>	

		<p>A governor queried what the disciplinary process is for poor attendance issues. The Procedure states that an action plan is put in place to seek improvement. The student is always given the benefit of the doubt due to illness or issues at home, however, there comes a point where they may miss too much of the course to be able to achieve.</p> <p>It was queried whether the data should be displayed as a percentage rather than numbers and LM agreed to look at this.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The Annual report on student exclusions</p>	LM
12	Annual student progression and destinations report (at Group level)	The Chief Further and Higher Education Officer apologised that the data was not available at the time of submitting the papers and a paper will be written and shared with the members of the committee at the end of the month.	LM
13	Feedback/Minutes of the Local Boards	<p>The Chair invited feedback from the Local College Board Chairs.</p> <p><u>Ashford College</u> MC advised that the Principal presented an on-screen presentation summarising the key issues which was very well received. This included an oversight of activities taking place. It was agreed to share this presentation. There was a conversation on how the Board members could help to promote the college using their contacts to include links with industry experts.</p> <p><u>Broadstairs College</u> PT noted that the first meeting is generally very procedural. Visits to departments will lead to closer networks.</p> <p><u>Canterbury College</u> The Board were very interested in T Levels and pleased to hear student feedback was positive. It was noted that there were not enough independent governors on the Boar, but it was noted that a recruitment drive is underway.</p>	

		<p><u>Dover Technical Board</u> RB had left the meeting. No issues were raised.</p> <p><u>Folkestone College</u> EB had left the meeting. No issues were raised.</p> <p><u>Sheppey College</u> JK advised that he had visited Sheppey College last month. JH noted that there had been a positive start to the year and Teaching, Learning and Assessment was back up to scratch. Anne Minett had presented an interesting piece of work on the progression of students, which was contextual to students on the Isle of Sheppey. They also discussed the Partnership in place with KamCop. There had been a slight increase in the number of poor behaviour incidents, but these were not a big concern at present. The local Board was pleased that the feedback on T Levels for Sheppey had been acted upon. The vision of the college has been tweaked and is working towards being more ambitious for the island.</p> <p>Local College Board Members were pleased to have been invited to the strategy event.</p> <p>Chairs agreed to assist in highlighting 3 bullet points which will be summarised into a cover paper for the next meeting.</p> <p>NOTED - The minutes of the Local College Board meetings.</p>	
14	Any Other Business	It was noted that the student governor, Ethan Stocker, is being proposed to Full Governing Body on 14 th December. The student governor would normally serve on the Education Committee but he has a full timetable on Thursdays so it asked whether consideration could be given to	

		<p>rearrange this committee to an alternative day. It was agreed that a Wednesday would be suitable for members.</p> <p>It was noted that the student may struggle to get to meetings from Sheppey. It was suggested a taxi is arranged if this is a barrier.</p>	
15	Matters Considered Confidential	There were no matters considered to be confidential.	
16	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Thursday, 3 rd March 2021 at 2.30pm (to be confirmed).	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:28

Signed: J. M. Kerzeniewski

Print: JOHN M. KERZENIEWSKI

Date: 2/3/22