Education Committee Minutes

Meeting	Education Committee	Date	Thursday 19 November 2020
Location	Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams	Time	2.30pm
Membership	John Korzeniewski (Chair), Graham Razey (Chief Executive Officer), Ella Brocklebank, Richard Brooks, *Miranda Chapman*, Jason Howard and Peter Troke		
In Attendance	Anne Leese (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) Tammy Mitchell (CEO EKC Schools Trust) Victoria Copp-Crawley (Chief Standards Officer) Nick Holbrook-Sutcliffe (Chief Curriculum Officer) Sharon Hollingsworth (Director of Governance) Kerry Hickmott (Minute Clerk) Item 6 - Dan Lewsey (Principal of EKC Digital Learn) and Neala Whybrow (Director of Pre-16 Development)		

(Italics denotes absence)

	ITEM	COMMENTS	ACTION
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. MC was absent with no apologies received. A student governor is yet to be appointed.	
2	Declarations of Interest	There were no additional declarations to the meeting than those declared as standing.	

3	Minutes of the meeting held 2nd June 2020	The minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2020 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record. The remote e-signing of the minutes will be undertaken by the Chair following the meeting.	
4	Matters Arising not covered by this agenda	There were no matters arising.	
5	T-Levels Update Report	NHS presented the report providing an update on overall progress with the five initial pathways commencing in Sept 2021 and on the key strategic next steps for the Group. It was queried what impact T-Levels will have on high school sixth forms. GR advised that future government policy changes may have an impact on the sustainability of some high school sixth forms. It is expected that two routes for Level 3 will be offered post GCSE, which will be limited to either A-Levels or T-Levels. It was noted that the advertising of T-levels on the College website is deeply unexciting. It was agreed that further work is needed to engage and inform students and parents about T-Levels, along with employer engagement. The Chair thanked NHS for the report and looked forward to an update at the next meeting in March. **NOTED - The Group's progress and developments regarding T-Levels.**	
6	Digital College Update Report	[DL and NW joined the meeting to present this item] DL presented an update on EKC DigitalLearn and advised of the programmes that had been approved to run.	

It was acknowledged that the cohorts were fairly small at the current time, however DL was confident of numbers increasing over the coming months. A number of referrals are coming from within the Group rather than these students dropping out. The programmes allow for students to start and finish on a rolling enrolment basis.

DL advised that the staff vacancies had been filled with both internal and external candidates.

A Governor noted that the on-line learning commitment from students across the board has not been as strong as hoped and queried how these students will engage with on-line learning. DL advised that a clear difference is that EKC DigitalLearn is starting as 100% on-line course. This is very clear when students are recruited, and all students will have the resources to learn on-line. The quality of the teaching and learning will ensure students are engaged. It was acknowledged that it is important to ensure the right students are selected to join the courses.

It was queried whether students would miss out on some skills by being remote. DL advised that learning still takes place as a group and students will be interacting with each other as part of a network and that students will still be required to demonstrate and develop communication skills.

A Governor asked whether EKC DigitalLearn could help to reduce the number of Group student exclusions as it would offer a different learning environment. It was agreed that it would very much depend on the reason for exclusion.

It was clarified that the introduction of EKC DigitalLearn had always been a business option for the Group regardless of Covid-19.

NW provided an update on the work taking place on the Digital Development Programme. NW advised that an EKC Group wide digital development day took place for curriculum staff on 19th October.

NW discussed the Education & Training Foundation digital teaching professional framework which provides elements from planning lessons through to how to use technology effectively.

		Bitesize modules and self-assessment tools provide a personalised review of where the gaps are and what needs to be worked on.	
		It was queried whether teachers felt threatened by the use of technology. NW advised that the Group have undertaken some case studies of where teachers initially struggled with the technology and staff have since developed their skills and embraced it.	
		NW and DL were thanked for their paper.	
		NOTED - The Group plans and strategy for EKC DigitalLearn	
		[DL and NW left the meeting following this item]	
7	Further Education Outcomes 2019-20	VCC noted that due to the pandemic, outcomes have not been published this year as qualifications were based on centre assessment grades. It was acknowledged that it was difficult to compare the results this year against last year, but the data will inform us of the gaps. VCC presented the following overall themes which would be a key focus in the 2020-21 Quality Improvement Plan: • Vulnerable students that struggled with the lockdown which has affected student achievement • In-year progress and achievement of level 1 Functional skills English and maths. It was noted that there was a change with focus on progress as opposed to attainment. Progress reporting will become part of standard reporting. These reports show improvements compared to starting points. It was noted that Level 2 achievements had increased • Preparation for exams, especially for those students who did not sit their GCSE exams. There will be a focus on revision techniques as well as dealing with the stress and anxiety of sitting an exam.	

		A governor expressed their interest to see results in data broken out by high risk groups, so that these students can be closely monitored.	
		VCC explained that Progress Boards are held throughout the academic year to ensure students are on target to achieve at all levels for programmes and these reviews are recorded on Pro-Monitor.	
		NOTED - The report on Education Outcomes for 2019-20	
8	2019-20 Self-Assessment Report for Further Education	AL presented the Self-Assessment Report.	
		AL flagged that due to the acquisition of Ashford College, which has been assessed against the inspection framework as 'Requiring Improvement' across the Board, we were not comparing like for like with previous years.	
		AL asked Governors to note that the SAR 2019-20 had not taken into account achievement rates for any provision given the approach to outcomes during the pandemic. Many achievements reflect predicted grades, adapted assessments, algorithm assessment, and are not based on actual exam outcomes or practical assessments to the usual standards required. This has been recognised nationally with no outcomes published by the DFE or considered by Ofsted for 2019-20.	
		GR advised that he did not agree with the assessment for Leadership and Management, as this had only been affected due to the mid-year acquisition of Ashford College. Nothing had changed in the last 8 years to weaken leadership and management from outstanding. GR acknowledged the reasons behind the Leadership and Management assessment in that that there were not enough high grades across the board to merit outstanding.	
		It was also acknowledged that parts of the Education Inspection Framework cannot be properly judged given the impact of the pandemic. It was suggested that the framework is not fit for	

		purpose at the current time. Governors where asked to note the unique context of the SAR for 2019-20 and its limitations. The more important aspect will be the Quality Improvement Plan. JK and PT requested a hard copy of the SAR. **APPROVED – The Self-Assessment Report for Further Education,**	DoG
9	2019-20 Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for Further Education	VCC presented the paper which provided an update of the end of year position as detailed in the QIP in July 2020. It was acknowledged that reports received by governors indicated the Group were heading for positive results in 2019/20, however the results were not truly known due to the pandemic. This will be reflected in the QIP for this year. **NOTED - The report on QIP for 2019-20** [RB left the meeting].	
10	2019-20 Self-Assessment Report for College Nurseries including Progress on the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)	TM presented the Self-Assessment report for the Nurseries. The key focus is on the nursery environment and TM advised that further work is to be undertaken this year to improve the monitoring of teaching and provision across the nurseries to ensure regular observation and feedback is provided for all nursery staff on a regular basis. Contextual data is sought for where the stimuli is being matched with the needs to community. It was agreed that PT would accompany TM to undertake a learning walk with the Nursery at Broadstairs. A report of the range of children within each nursery was requested for a future paper. TM advised that the Early Years Pupil Premium was only being used at Canterbury Nursery. It was noted that Canterbury Nursery has the highest of number of children with EAL (English as an Additional Language). Conversely Broadstairs nursery has the highest number of children with	TM TM

		SEN (Special Educational Needs), although it was acknowledged that there is a qualified SENCO member of staff at the Broadstairs Nursery. **NOTED - The Report on the Progress on the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for the Group Nurseries.**	
11	Education CPIs	VCC presented the Group CPIs proposed for 2020-21. These now include EKC DigitalLearn as well as Ashford College that were not previously counted in 2019/20. The set of CPI's are produced for each college and each business unit in the Group. The CPI's have been set with the agreement from the Local College Boards. It was noted that retention and attendance to date is lower in 2020-21. However, the figures for last year did not include Ashford College, Spring Lane or EKC DigitalLearn. Retention last year remained high and did not change during lockdown. It was noted that there was a drop in apprenticeship starts and this was predicted due to Covid-19, however there was an increase in 16-18 year starts. It was further noted that staff absence is higher this year due to the pandemic. GR reflected that due to the pandemic, and the acquisition of new business units, the data is difficult to compare to last year and would be more meaningful if comparing the difference month on month. It was agreed that a commentary needs to accompany the data. It was discussed how meaningful the reports are for governors in general. It was suggested a governor dashboard is developed with the core data that is requested. The Chair agreed to give further thought to the reports and information that would be helpful to the governors. JK and VCC to discuss further. **NOTED - The report on the progress against the Education CPIs.**	JK/VCC

12	Annual report on student exclusions	AL presented the report on stage 3 student disciplinary hearings and exclusions. AL advised that two appeals had been heard, neither of which were upheld however one student had been supported to complete their qualification. It was requested that the report be broken down by high risk and disadvantaged groups. It was agreed that this would be more useful to review at Local College Board Level with Principals. It was also suggested that a more useful approach to requesting reports could be to test particularly hypothesises as the Committee recognised the added burden at this time of officers having to collate further information. **NOTED - The report on student exclusions**	AL
13	Annual student progression and destinations report (at Group level)	VCC presented an update on the destinations of all funded students who studied with the Group during the 2019-20 academic year. It was noted that there was an increase in the number of progressing students. The number of students going into employment has decreased. It was felt this data was in line with expectations as a result of the pandemic. It was agreed that it would be useful to have the proportions alongside the percentages in future reports. **NOTED - The report on annual student progression and destinations.**	VCC
14	Minutes of the Local Boards / Feedback	The Chair invited the Chairs of the Local College Boards to add any comments to the Minutes from their last round of board meetings.	

		Governors advised that their members were keen to undertake learner walkthroughs once the guidelines allow. It was also acknowledged how well the colleges have dealt with the pandemic. **NOTED - The minutes of the Local College Board meetings.**	
15	Any Other Business	There was no other business.	
16	Matters Considered Confidential	No matters were considered to be confidential.	
17	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Thursday, 4th March 2021 at 2.30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45pm

Signed: _John M. Korzeniewski_   Print: John Korzeniewski   Date: 10 March 2021