



Education Committee Minutes

Meeting	Education Committee	Date	Thursday 4 March 2021
Location	Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams	Time	2.30pm
Membership	John Korzeniewski (Chair), Graham Razey (Chief Executive Officer), Ella Brocklebank (EB), <i>Richard Brooks (RB)</i> , Miranda Chapman (MC), Jason Howard (JH), Natalie Garner (NG), Owen Tompkins (student governor) and Peter Troke (PT)		
In Attendance	<p>Anne Leese (AL) (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) Tammy Mitchell (TM) (CEO EKC Schools Trust) Victoria Copp-Crawley (VCC) (Chief Standards Officer) Nick Holbrook-Sutcliffe (NSS) (Chief Curriculum Officer) Sharon Hollingsworth (Director of Governance) Kerry Hickmott (Minute Clerk)</p> <p>Item 6 – Sarah Morgan (SM) (Director of Mathematics Development) and Katy Brown (KB) (Director of English Development) Item 8 – Jo Campbell (JC) (Director of SEND Development) and Neala Whybrow (NW) (Director of Inclusion and Wider Provision)</p>		

(Italics denotes absence)

	ITEM	COMMENTS	ACTION
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Richard Brooks.	
2	Welcome to Owen Tompkins	Owen Tompkins student governor, and Natalie Garner independent governor were welcomed to their first meeting.	

	<p>Welcome and appointment of Natalie Garner</p>	<p>Owen is a student studying Public Services at Canterbury College. Natalie's appointment to the Committee was recommended by the Search and Governance Committee. The Committee welcomed the appointment given Natalie's current skills and experience in education.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>There were no additional declarations to the meeting than those declared as standing.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the meeting held 19th November 2020</p>	<p>The minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 19th November 2020 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record subject to an amendment on page 4 item 6 that referenced the incorrect report had been noted. This is amended to:</p> <p>NOTED - The Group plans and strategy for EKC DigitalLearn.</p> <p>The remote e-signing of the minutes will be undertaken by the Chair following the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Matters Arising not covered by this agenda</p>	<p>Item 10 – PT advised that due to the national lockdown the Nursery learning walk with TM had not yet taken place. It was hoped this will be arranged after Easter.</p> <p>Item 11 – VCC advised she was working on an updated report through Power BI and would arrange a meeting with JK in the forthcoming weeks to discuss the suite of reports available to governors.</p>	<p>VCC</p>
6	<p>English and Maths – Progress and Developments</p>	<p>[MC joined the meeting]. [SM and KB joined the meeting to present this item]</p> <p>SM and KB presented an update to the Committee on the activities taking place and the developments of English and mathematics across the Group.</p> <p>SM advised that the November resit results had been broadly positive for EKC Group. The intensive model and the additional time, notably the one to one tutorial's, had a major</p>	

		<p>contributing factor to student success and it is recommended that this model be re-instated from September 2021.</p> <p>A governor thanked SM and KB for their work in raising the standards across the Group.</p> <p>SM advised that staff were being supported to work through a robust process to inform accurate teacher assessed grades. Clear guidelines including clarity on evidence and further assessment is being issued to ensure a strict moderated and assessed approach.</p> <p>The Committee thanked SM and KB for their useful report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The Group's progress and developments update for English and Mathematics</p> <p>[SM and KB left the meeting following this item]</p>	
7	<p>T levels - update to include key opportunities coming through from the FE White Paper 2021</p>	<p>NHS provided an update to the Committee on progress with T Levels and the impact of the White Paper on the curriculum offer.</p> <p>NHS advised that the number of student applications have increased in all T Level areas since the paper was submitted. There was now a focus on securing industry placements for T Level starts in September 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of the planned T Levels are in areas where there is existing level 3 provision and therefore, whilst a level of upskilling is required, the subject area is not new. Staff have been given a lead in time of one year to prepare and develop each T Level programme.</p> <p>Subjects where a T Level route had not been identified were discussed by the Committee. It is expected that increased apprenticeships will be offered for many of these areas. A Sport/Science pathway is being explored, but no additional T Levels are expected. Public Services will be a work based option delivered by the Armed Forces. The Group may wish to lobby against this decision as the Group offer a strong provision in this area.</p>	

		<p>Governors, MC and EB were thanked for their offer to help with industry links for the placements. NHS will take this forward in conjunction with the Industry Liaison Officers for the respective colleges. Local College Boards may wish to challenge Principals on whether the volume of this resource is enough to meet the capacity requirements.</p> <p>The Committee was pleased with the distance travelled since the last meeting and requested a further update at the next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The Group's progress on T-Levels and key opportunities coming through from the FE White Paper 2021</p>	NHS
8	Inclusion Strategy	<p>[JC and NW joined the meeting to present this item]</p> <p>JC presented a summary of the forthcoming 4 year Inclusion Strategy which underpins the priorities in the Strategic Plan relating to High Needs, SEND and the Inclusive provision and detailed the further developments required to ensure all practices and processes are inclusive and accessible, allowing EKC Group to remain at the forefront. The Inclusion Strategy focuses on teaching and learning and compliments the Equality and Diversity action plan.</p> <p>There are three strands within the strategy which focus on the development of new provision, enhancing the inclusive culture within the Group and continuing to develop the quality of teaching Learning and assessment.</p> <p>It is planned to create a culture where all Leaders and teachers are educated in SEND. Ensuring that core universal standards are embedded in leadership across the organisation and able to demonstrate knowledge and awareness of inclusion.</p> <p>It was queried why there were 162 declines in 2019/20. JC explained that approximately 650 EHCP applications were received where EKC Group was named as a potential provider. A consultation process then takes place with KCC to determine whether the Group have the provision to provide educational needs. In some cases the Group have to decline some applications due to the</p>	

		<p>specialist provision requirements or where applicants are not ready for a FE learning environment and require a staged approach, such as a very small learning environment, before joining the Group.</p> <p>VCC and TM explained that it is planned to bring a new proposal to the next Full Governing Body meeting which explores a proposal with the FAR Academy which will aim to support the gap where provision may have had to be declined in the past.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The report on Inclusion Strategy</p> <p>[JC and NW left the meeting following this item]</p>	
9	<p>Safeguarding & Prevent update to include deep dive into attendance levels of vulnerable and disadvantaged learners</p>	<p>AL explained that she is the senior executive lead responsible for group wide safeguarding arrangements including policies and procedures for safeguarding. Kate Young is the independent specialist Chair who reports directly into the Full Governing Body.</p> <p>AL advised that there had been fewer safeguarding incidents compared to the same time last year. The top five categories have remained the same although the number of domestic abuse cases had increased.</p> <p>Student Progression Mentors have been in contact with learners on a regular basis and their work has been critical during the pandemic. The importance of student routines and healthy sleep patterns was highlighted.</p> <p>JH advised that he had taken on the role of governor safeguarding lead and had arranged a meeting with Kate Young. He planned to attend the next safeguarding meeting to introduce himself to the Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>VCC explained that an extensive analysis of 2020-21 attendance has been undertaken to inform current support and improvement strategies to ensure students are engaged through digital learning during the lockdown period. The aim was to identify those students whose attendance</p>	

		<p>has been most affected by lockdown particularly those that are most vulnerable of disengaging and at risk of not achieving and progressing. As a result, an action plan has been drawn up to address the key trends where there is poor student attendance that needs more focused strategies across the Group.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED – The Safeguarding and Prevent Update</p>	
10	<p>Progress on the Quality Improvement Plan</p>	<p>VCC provided an update on the progress with the Group Quality Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Timelines are broadly on track against individual actions, and where applicable due to the lockdown and the move to online delivery, additional reviews have been carried out to ensure resources, learning and the progress of students through this period are maintained.</p> <p>VCC reported that on the Level 1 progression curriculum, 949 students had qualifying starts and 84% have achieved their award with a further 12% about to be claimed. Of this, 97% of students have gone on to claim their certificate.</p> <p>Students were all offered the opportunity to sit exams and grades are expected to be received on 17th March.</p> <p>There have inevitably been some changes to the schemes of work for the practical elements, due to lockdown. Students will be completing their practical elements as soon as they return to college.</p> <p>Concern was raised by governors that in virtual learning walkthroughs, no students had their cameras on and were monosyllabic in their answers. This mirrored the majority of lessons taking place online throughout the Group and was a concern as it is culture issue. The imminent return to college is welcomed and will allow students to engage with their peers and tutors more effectively.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The progress report on Quality Improvement Plan.</p>	

11	Standards of teaching, learning and assessment update	<p>VCC presented an overview of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment with a particular focus on the quality of digital learning as a result of the lockdown in term 3 and part of term 4, including a summary of Strengths and the areas for improvement. VCC advised that the areas with lower profiles are improving.</p> <p>Concern was raised over the areas with lower figures and a focus on how the formulation of the TLA profile will be provided in the next meeting.</p> <p>A governor queried what opportunities are available for sharing best practices. VCC advised that best practices have been shared across the Group as staff have become more confident in the delivery of online lessons. These have been shared via newsletters, virtual green door, sharing of resources, and discreetly joining online classes to observe the lesson. Another teacher can discreetly join lessons to learn from.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The Report on the Standards of teaching, learning and assessment</p>	
12	Education CPIs	<p>VCC reported that the performance of education across the Group is generally good with the majority of key indicators on target or performing above target. It is important to note that both student retention and student attendance is generally very strong for this stage both against target and against this point in the last academic year, before the pandemic started. A lot of work has taken place where students have disengaged. The test will be what happens to this data when students return on 8 March.</p> <p>VCC advised that intervention plans are in place for either maths or English in the majority of colleges particularly in the lower level functional skills courses.</p> <p>The Committee were mindful of the intervention measures in place in conjunction with the progress report received on the progress of maths and English in item 6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The report on the progress against the Education CPIs.</p>	


<p>13</p>	<p>Mid-Year Review of Nurseries QIP 2020 – 2021 to include a focus on the range of children within each nursery setting.</p>	<p>TM reported that despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Nurseries have remained open and managers have continued to make improvements in the Quality of Education and to the development of outdoor provision.</p> <p>There are plans to expand the nursery provision at Broadstairs and Folkestone this year. Broadstairs will have a second provision on site where the babies and toddlers will be using the bungalow building as new concept facility “Home from Home.” Folkestone has a waiting list for babies and therefore there is a plan in place to create an additional baby room and an additional pre toddler room in Folkestone. These new facilities will provide additional opportunities for work placements and apprenticeships.</p> <p>TM presented a profile of the children attending the EKC Group Nurseries, as requested by the Committee at the last meeting.</p> <p>The number of children identified with SENCO requirements at Broadstairs nursery was queried. TM explained that this is an area currently review as Broadstairs is currently the only Nursery with a qualified SENCO and the number of children recorded here is reflective of the skills and knowledge of the leader. A number of the children have low level speech delay which will be corrected with the right support and interventions which are in place. Therefore, this figure is not a true reflection of the long term levels of need. Canterbury and Folkestone do not currently have qualified SENCOs, although there are staff now qualifying at both nurseries.</p> <p>It was noted that the Education Committee wished to reflect their thanks for the continued delivery of childcare throughout the pandemic. TM was requested to draft a letter of thanks for the Chair to review and sign.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED – the Mid-Year Review of Nurseries QIP 2020 – 2021</p> <p>[MC left the meeting]</p>	<p>TM</p>
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14	Minutes of the Local Boards / Feedback	<p>The Chair invited the Chairs of the Local College Boards to add any comments to the Minutes from their last round of Local Board meetings.</p> <p>LCB Chairs present at the meeting 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.</p> <p>PT, Chair of Broadstairs LCB commented that he was frustrated at not being able to visit Broadstairs college as it is difficult to be assured through online learning walks, however it is hoped these can be reinstated after the Easter break.</p> <p>EB, Chair of Folkestone LCB concurred with the praise of staff as there had been a number of positive reports at Folkestone College. Planning permission has now been granted for the new build at the College. The newly appointed student representative joined the last LCB meeting and has a strong LGBT ethic.</p> <p>JH, Chair of Sheppey LCB advised that he was able to visit Sheppey College in December and had the opportunity to meet some staff, who all had much praise for the leadership of the college. The LCB has acknowledged a number of staff for their contribution throughout the pandemic. There are also some newly appointed members to the Board.</p> <p>JK, Chair of Canterbury LCB acknowledged how well Canterbury College have continued to safeguard students during lockdown as well as providing education. JK advised that he had been able to visit Spring Lane in October.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTED - The minutes of the Local College Board meetings.</p> <p>JK thanked staff and governors for the papers and their contributions to the meeting.</p>	
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, 17 th June 2021 at 2.30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.47pm

Signed: 

Print: John Korzeniewski

Date: 30 June 2021