

MINUTES



Standards & Performance Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday 19th January 2022
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Video Conference

Present:

Sue Lomax (Chair)
Andrew Fawcett
Chris Ball
Dr Gill Waugh
Rameen Ambar
Tom Martin
Bill Webster (Principal)

In Attendance:

Deborah Bradburn (Clerk to the Board)
Mark Burgoyne (Deputy Principal)
Tracy Clarke (Director of MIS and Curriculum Planning)
Karen Westsmith (Director of Curriculum and Quality)
Kate Wallace (Director of Curriculum Employer and Student Services)
Jill Hebden (Minute Taker)

1. SECTION A - BUSINESS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

1.1 Welcome to Members/Officers

Members were welcomed to the meeting, which commenced at 2.02pm.

1.2 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received for the meeting.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any interests in relation to any item on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

1.4 Request for an item to be unstarred

No requests were received.

1.5* Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held 2 November 2021 had been previously circulated to members for consideration.

Agreed: that the minutes are approved as a correct record and authorised for publication.

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improvement would be provided with intensive support to ensure improvement this academic year.

- 234 apprentices had been recruited with the College on track to achieve its target of 323.
- The ROATP had been submitted with the outcome due shortly.

Governor Questions:

- Are there any correlations between staff shortages in certain subject areas and the requiring improvement grade?

Yes, there had been a high staff turnover within building services that had contributed to the requiring improvement outcome.

- Is the projection of £900k ahead of budget accurate?

Yes, apprenticeships has recruited very well and the team continue to recruit with integrity.

- Why has the College been so successful?

There has been a change in curriculum focus with the College maximising growth where possible. The employer engagement team continued to work with employers throughout the pandemic that had a positive impact and the College had also been successful in winning bids.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the information provided in the Apprenticeship Update report.

ACTION:

The number of apprentices in each sector area and percentage of early leavers to be included in future reporting.

(iii) Maths and English

The Director of Curriculum, Employer and Student Services presented the report with the following points highlighted:

- The College had received the MIDES report that gave a comparison of learning providers and provided a benchmark against other colleges and in-year progress.
- The College's pass rate for English and maths was the lowest in the MIDES report. It was to be noted that the College had a higher proportion of learners that had neither English or maths in comparison to other colleges.
- The College recognised a decrease in achievement and a full implementation plan had been created to work towards improvements in engagement, attendance and achievement. Streaming would be removed and timetabling would focus on English

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and maths to maximise attendance with delivery times also increased to maximise improvement.

Governor Questions:

- This is a major strategic issue of young people failing in English and maths in the Bolton area, could a discussion be arranged with the local authority?

The College would pick this up with the Council noting that this would not cover all schools and required a cross sector approach. The College has a grasp on the challenges it faces and has outlined a significant number of changes although it cannot be ignored that the pandemic has had a significant impact over the last two years.

- The College has not been that far away from the overall national achievement rates in previous years, why is it so adrift on the MIDES data?

Due to the pandemic there has been some grade inflation on GCSE results, the College did not do this and when learners sit their examinations it is expected this will level out. The College as an inclusive provider has a large number of learners where English is not their first or second language and with that comes a level of underachievement due to the demographic. The data needs to be contextualised and the College is adding value that will be presented in the next report.

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Governor Questions:

- What is the position on T-Level recruitment across the country?

Other colleges have seen the same low level recruitment for T-Levels. There has been a lack of a national campaign that has been discussed with the ESFA. However, there has been a shift in learners at the College asking about T-levels at open evenings with good news stories getting out via the marketing team to maximise recruitment, which is a priority.

- It has been reported in newspapers that most Universities will reject the first cohort of T-Level students, is this something the College has found?

This has been a concern. Colleges have been working with local Universities to update and inform them of what a T Level is and why it should be accepted.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the information provided in the 16 – 19 Study Programmes and T-Level Update report.

ACTION:

- Report to detail those University's not accepting T-Levels.

2.2 Self-Assessment Report 2020 /21 and Quality Improvement Plan

The Director of Curriculum & Quality presented the report, highlighting the following key points:

- The process had evolved to a widened panel approach that included peer-to-peer review and offered a more reflective approach. The curriculum leaders valued this approach that looked at different aspects of the curriculum.
- Each SAR panel had at least one Board member in attendance.
- There was a streamlined approach that integrated the community and College SAR for when the community contract was brought in-house at the end of the academic year.
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- The survey captured the views of learners in a number of ways and at different points throughout the academic year and had been reviewed and updated with the input of the Quality Manager.
- The average satisfaction rate across all questions was 91%. The distance travelled for all headline perception indicators had declined when measuring satisfaction scores against the same time last year which remained above the national benchmark.
- Apprenticeship programmes had been included in the survey.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Start of Course Survey report.

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2.5 Student Progressions and Destinations Report
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4. SECTION D - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Bolton College of Medical Sciences

The Deputy Principal provided an update on the BCMS project:

- £20m in level-up funding through Bolton Council and money from the University had moved the project forward