

MINUTES

STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date: 30th January 2019
Time: 5.00pm
Venue: Boardroom

Present:

Andrew Fawcett, Sue Lomax (Chair), Kate Flood, Dave Haslam,
Bill Webster (Interim Principal)

In Attendance:

Fatema Hussein (Clerk to the Board)
Joanne Green (Director of Quality)
Karen Westersmith (Director of Adults & H.E.)
Tracy Clarke (Director of MIS)
Sharon Marriot (Director of Curriculum)
Kate Wallace (Director of Apprenticeships)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Gill Waugh.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th September 2018

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 8 16-18 Study Programmes

5. Learner Voice – Start of Course Survey

The Director of Quality presented the report and the following points were noted:

- There had been a significant increase in the number of respondents in comparison to last year
- Satisfaction rates had improved and enrichment was the only area which remained below 90% satisfaction
- Food was always an area that elicited a lot of response and the current catering contract was being reviewed
- Upgrades had been undertaken to IT systems and Wi-Fi and there had been no issues raised in relation to these in this particular survey

Governor Questions :

- Why had there been a five points drop in the last question about studying in class and at home?

It was not clear why this had dropped but would be monitored

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the results of the learner satisfaction survey

6. Achievement Data 2017/18

The Director of MIS presented her report and the following points were noted:

- A target of 86% achievement was proposed for 16-18 provision and 84% for adults for the 2018-19 academic year
- The overall achievement rate for 2017-18 was 84%
- There had been a decline in the number of enrolments for the LA Community Learning contract
- This was due to the removal of short courses and an increase in more accredited provision
- An achievement target of 90% was being proposed for the community learning contract

Governor Questions:

- Was College expecting to see a big variation in the number of enrolments for accredited learning?

College had to work to Council priorities and the number would not increase vastly

- Would any funding requirement need to be met?

There were no funding requirements for this provision

Agreed: The Committee approved the 90% target for the Community Learning Contract

H.E. Provision

- Retention and achievement for H.E. provision was calculated differently to the University but College was working with them to align this
- A new target for H.E. provision would be provided at the next Committee meeting

Apprenticeships

- Whilst achievement in apprenticeship provision has been declining, College had a clear focus to remove learners who were still on programme but beyond their planned end date
- As a result, only 22 learners had been taken forward from 2017/18
- A target of 69% was proposed for overall achievement and 64% for timely
- This would put College above the national achievement rate

Governor Questions:

- Was College being too optimistic with the target?

The College was striving to achieve above the national benchmark and this would also be expected by Ofsted

- How much provision was below minimum standards?

This was currently 40%

A Governor suggested that it would be useful to have details on minimum levels of performance in future reports

Agreed: The Committee approved the apprenticeship targets

7. Maths and English Update

The Director of 14-19 presented the report and the 2017/18 achievement data, and the following points were noted:

- The prior attainment of learners in English and Maths was very low compared to the national average
- 60% of learners had enrolled with no qualification in English and Maths compared to the national average of 26%
- GCSE Maths and English 9-1 achievement for 16-18 learners had improved and was in line with national averages
- GCSE 9-4 achievement had declined in English and improved slightly in Maths
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- This was due to the profile of learners that would be added to the GCSE cohort as a large number of learners will have a very low prior attainment level
- However

The Chair suggested that whilst 9-1 achievement was important, there should be a greater focus on learner progress going forward

8. Teaching and Learning Assessment Report

Governors reviewed the report that had been circulated by the Director of Quality who reported that:

- College had met the key challenge in improving the quality of Community Learning provision delivered on behalf of Bolton Council, which had been graded as Good in the inspection last term.
- The only areas which were still rated as requiring improvement were Apprenticeships and Adult Learning
- The aim was for them to be good by the end of the current academic year.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the teaching, learning and achievement successes in 2017/18 as detailed in the report.

The Principal reported that:

- College had been shortlisted for the AOC Beacon awards for its innovative use of technology
- JISC had invited the College for this to be used by the Secretary of State for Education as an exemplar case study at a recent technology show
- A £10 million fund for innovation was available and College had become eligible to submit a bid to access some of this funding
- He had also met with Amazon who were interested in working in partnership with the College to further develop the Chatbot service

The Principal thanked Aftab Hussain and the team for the fantastic work they had undertaken in the development of this technology.

9. Apprenticeship Update Report

The Director of Apprenticeships presented her report and the following points were noted:

- Overall apprenticeship achievement (best case) was 73.7% with 149 learners still to achieve
- Timely achievement was 70.8%
- Work was being undertaken to switch from frameworks to standards as increased funding was received for the standard
- A decision had been taken not to offer a plumbing apprenticeship at present
- There had been an error in the funding that had been reported and this was as a result of ESFA significantly overstating the funding value within the current academic year
- Interventions had been put into place to rectify this
- The contract for non-levy employers had been extended to 2020
- Efforts were being made to encourage early achievers as this would put the College in a good position for funding
- The aim was to try and maximise the value received from Apprenticeships

Governor Questions :

- Were any courses not on Standards?

It was confirmed that Plumbing and Accounting were still on the framework

- How much did College receive from the levy employers?