

Preston's College

Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee Meeting held on 26th November 2015 at 5:30pm in the Board Room at Preston's College

Present:

Dr A Jones (Chair)
Mrs L Hornsby (Deputy Chair)
T Readett
Dr E H Smith

In attendance:

Chris Wood (Vice Principal - Excellence & Learning)
Stephen Fell (Clerk to the Corporation)
Andrew Gadsdon (Learning and Development Manager)
Louise Noblett (Head of Learner Experience)
Mick Noblett (Assistant Principal - Excellence and Learning)
Marie Haworth (Assistant Principal - Excellence and Learning)

11. Welcome and Apologies

The Committee noted that apologies had been received from Anne Markland and Jeff Taylor.

12. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

13. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2015

Resolved: That the Minutes be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

14. Matters Arising

Minute 7 – Louise Noblett confirmed that the revised Complaints Procedure had recently been considered by College Management Team and would be circulated for comment in due course.

15. Common Inspection Framework and Key Elements

Chris Wood gave a brief presentation on the key aspects of the Common Inspection Framework (CIF). In doing so he referred to an explanatory handbook from Ofsted which had been circulated to the Committee for information.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

16. Presentations relating to the One College Continuous Improvement Framework

Chris Wood briefly explained the internal and external context for the One College Continuous Improvement Framework. The Committee received the following presentations, each of which set out the strengths, areas for improvement and key actions for each area:

i) Outcomes for Learners, presented - Mick Noblett and Marie Haworth

Mr Wood closed the presentation by explaining that this matter would be considered in significantly more detail at a future meeting.

ii) Teaching, Learning and Assessment - Andrew Gadsdon

In response to a query from the Committee, Mr Wood confirmed that the College was working hard to improve its assessment strategies. The Committee recognised this as a key development.

iii) Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare - Louise Noblett

The Committee recognised that a number of the areas for improvement in this area had already been progressed. They questioned the potentially unrepresentative nature of the action to develop “arrangements for sourcing, undertaking and recording of work placement activity” in the context of the College’s employability strategy. Mr Wood explained that the focus on this area reflected the high standards the College was setting itself.

iv) Leadership and Management - Chris Wood

Chris Wood drew the Committee’s attention to key points within the presentation.

In closing, Mr Wood summarised the priorities for 2015/16 in terms of curriculum plan and review, quality improvement and governance.

The Committee agreed that it was necessary to raise awareness amongst governing body members in terms of the College’s curriculum and delivery methods. The Principal and Chief Executive stated that, at the same time, management would focus on ensuring that curriculum-focused reports were pitched appropriately.

Resolved: That the presentations be noted.

17. College Dashboard

Mr Noblett presented the College dashboard and briefly talked through its various components. In particular, the Committee noted the College's 'concerning' EFA attrition rate and the associated work to resolve the situation.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

18. Update on 2014/15 Success Tracking

The Executive Director of Resources presented a report updating the Committee on success rates tracking.

Mr Nixon explained that this matter had been considered at the last Board meeting and this report summarised the outcome of the associated investigation. REDACTED

He reported that whilst his paper summarised the outcome of the review it was not an in-depth analysis of success rates at programme or course level. Finally, Mr Nixon talked through the key areas for improvement and briefly outlined the work that would be undertaken to enhance processes within the College. In the context of these processes the Chair emphasised the importance of providing supporting information alongside data, to ensure that data was presented in a meaningful form and the context was clear.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Date of Next Meeting: 3rd March 2015