

## **Boston College**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 APRIL 2022**

---

#### **1. PRESENT**

Helen Rumbold (Chair), Ruth Catlett, Claire Foster, Axel Sedgwick and Nick Worth.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Vicki Locke (Deputy Principal), Kelly Harris (Assistant Principal: Performance & Quality) and Linda Radford (Curriculum Leader: English, Maths & ESOL - presentation only).

Apologies for absence were received from Daran Bland and David Fannin.

Attendance 63%

#### **2. PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation from Linda Radford on 'Using progress indicators to prepare for success in GCSEs'. The presentation covered steps which had been taken to prepare for the Summer 2022 examinations.

Ruth Catlett outlined how this worked in her area. Nick Worth asked about learner reactions to the initiatives outlined. Kelly Harris reported that attendance had improved. Ruth commented that attendance incentives had gone down well with her learners. The college is looking at ways of getting parents more involved next year.

Linda Radford left the meeting

#### **3. ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log and noted the status of the identified actions.

Claire Foster reported that a consultant had reviewed the college's data systems. The Executive Team is considering how VITAL should be replaced.

#### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 9 February 2022 were reviewed and approved.

#### **5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2021-22**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Helen Rumbold expressed concern about learners leaving due to 'mental health/wellbeing' issues. Vicki Locke advised the committee that the national picture is of young people struggling. The college is working on learner wellbeing and Kelly Harris said that staff are being supported to address this and signpost learners for help.

In looking at attendance levels compared with the previous year, Claire Foster reminded members of the distinction between attendance and engagement and that the latter may be higher now. Learner views and progress will provide a measure of this.

Helen commented on positive employer ratings. The committee agreed that changes which had been made to reports assisted members' understanding.

## **6. 2021-22 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Vicky Locke reported in the main good progress was being made. Helen Rumbold asked whether governors could support employer events and Claire Foster advised that governors have been providing support where relevant.

## **7. LEARNER VIEWS**

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance and Quality on feedback from learner surveys.

Kelly Harris reported that the response rate for the mid-year Full Time Learner Survey had been lower than normal. Curriculum Leaders have had discussions with learners to get more feedback and were pleased with the responses. Particular follow up addressed the disappointing percentage of learners feeling safe on site but no particular issues were identified. Nick Worth suggested what learners regarded as safe might be a key to the responses. It was noted that there was a difference between feeling safe and feeling comfortable.

An improving picture on careers and work experience was noted. In response to a query from Helen Rumbold, Kelly explained the use of 'Focused 15' in maths and a college devised 'Focused 10' in English.

## **8. TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE**

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance and Quality.

Kelly Harris advised members of the range of activities undertaken. Helen Rumbold asked how adult learners had reacted to receiving telephone calls about low attendance and Kelly reported that it had generally been positive. Nick Worth asked how the college's adult data compared with other providers. Claire Foster advised that comparative data is not easily available and colleges have differing curriculum mixes.

Helen asked how the distance learning offer was going. A lot of work is being put in to support learners and ensure that they progress. Ruth Catlett outlined the role she is playing in distance learning.

Members noted that the college's Matrix Accreditation inspection was underway and asked to be advised of the outcome. ●

## **9. VICKI LOCKE**

The committee noted that this was Vicki's last Standards committee meeting and she was thanked for the work she had done for the committee.

## **10. MAKE A DIFFERENCE CURRICULUM**

Ruth Catlett outlined for the committee an example of learners being inspired by a piece of work to develop related strands of learning.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would be held on 22 June 2022.