

Boston College

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. **PRESENT**

Daran Bland, Ruth Catlett, David Fannin, Claire Foster, Axel Sedgwick and Nick Worth.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Heather Marks (Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality) and Kelly Harris (Assistant Principal: Performance & Quality).

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Rumbold and Paul Tomlinson.

Attendance 75%

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Having been duly nominated and seconded, Daran Bland was appointed as Chair of the committee for 2022-23.

Daran Bland in the Chair

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Having been duly nominated and seconded, Helen Rumbold was appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee for 2022-23.

4. **ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log.

Daran Bland asked about the latest position regarding VITAL. Kelly Harris advised that it is currently working and, in the run up to Ofsted, it has been decided to maintain stability by keeping it while other changes are being made. Claire Foster commented that it was expensive to implement a comprehensive system.

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 22 June 2022 were reviewed and approved.

6. **A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS**

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality.

Heather Marks advised the committee that A levels had a sustained 100% pass rate with an increase in high grades. The English GCSE pass rate had improved significantly but maths was not as strong. A level and English results were commended. A discussion took place about strategies to improve the maths results including increasing focus on learner progress. Members asked about lessons learned and how performance compared to benchmarks. Kelly Harris advised that there was a focus on adding a functional element of maths into main courses. Heather advised that she was analysing the data to identify any gaps and the impact of support given.

Ruth Catlett suggested that English and maths was a part of the MAD curriculum even for those with GCSE passes. Claire Foster commented that there was a push to move learners on from grade 3 to 4 and that the college can show that it has capacity to improve. The

committee requested that the next report should identify how many learners had been able to move from grade 3 to 4. Axel Sedgwick advised that, although learners did not particularly enjoy English and maths, the changes to the delivery environment were popular.

7. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2021-22

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality.

Heather Marks drew attention to work on completing outstanding achievements and the anticipated final position. It was noted that learner retention was down which was in line with drops recorded across the sector. Kelly Harris commented that a high proportion of in year leavers went into work or apprenticeships. The challenges raised by the pandemic continue to affect learners. It was noted that a number of curriculum areas are in Performance Improvement Reviews.

Daran Bland asked about the basis of the assessment of SEND learners on track to achieve and Kelly explained the factors taken into consideration. Heather commented that this area had seen some parents cautious about supporting learners' return to college.

Nick Worth suggested that retention remains likely to be a challenge in the current economic climate. Heather explained that as part of its retention strategy the college was looking at ways of supporting learners. The impact of this strategy will be shared with the committee.

8 COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS 2021-22

Members received a report from the Quality Improvement Manager which was presented by Kelly Harris.

Kelly advised that the number of complaints received had increased and were now in line with pre-Covid levels. She outlined the process for dealing with complaints and advised that all of the complaints had been resolved. There were no trends identified in the complaints. Daran Bland asked about the split of complaints between learners and parents and Kelly confirmed that this was about 50:50.

9. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

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

Kelly Harris outlined start of year activities and advised that most teaching and learning was now face to face other than where remote learning has proven to work particularly well.

Kelly gave information on quality monitoring processes. Heather Marks commented that there was work to be done on social and emotional learning post-Covid. A discussion took place about the deep dive approach to QMRs and how they were implemented.

Daran Bland asked for comments on the start of year. Axel Sedgwick advised that the atmosphere at PPC was improved and he was receiving good feedback from learners. Ruth Catlett commented there were some issues getting learners into vocational settings but she suggested that tutor groups were more settled and learners appeared better motivated.

Daran asked about the recent change in style of performance management and Claire Foster confirmed that following up threads would continue. Kelly offered to share information on how this had worked in 2021-22. Ruth commented that she found the new approach more supportive and it allowed teachers to try out new approaches which were of benefit to learners. Kelly commented that governors would be welcome to come in to see how the process works.

10. RISKS AND REPORTABLE EVENTS

It was reported that the college had received approval from OfS for its Access and Participation Plan which means that the requested tuition fees can continue to be offered. The implications of enacting the plan were outlined. Acceptance of this decision from the OfS has to be confirmed by the Corporation to allow the plan to be published and the committee agreed to recommend its acceptance. ●

11. COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Members received a report from the Clerk to the Corporation on the committee's performance against its 2021-22 targets.

it was agreed that targets to be proposed to the Corporation for 2022-23 should be:

- At least 80% attendance
- Monitoring achievement of Access and Participation Plan targets
- Development of capacity to prepare for Ofsted inspection
- Training to offer insight into the student experience, environmental sustainability and English and maths

The committee asked that its next meeting should include some direct learner input. ●

12. LEARNER INTERACTION

Daran Bland complimented the college on the way in which learners were being managed during enrolment which he had witnessed when attending college for his governor appraisal.

13. NEXT MEETING

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