

## Boston College

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2022

---

#### 1. **PRESENT**

Daran Bland, Claire Foster, Helen Rumbold and Nick Worth.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Axel Sedgwick (Governor), Vicki Locke (Deputy Principal), Kelly Harris (Assistant Principal: Performance & Quality), Claire Ashley (Curriculum Leader: Business, Accountancy & Travel - presentation only) and Ben Webb (Curriculum Leader: Engineering, Motorsport & Automotive Tech – presentation only).

Apologies for absence were received from Ruth Catlett and David Fannin.

Attendance 75%

#### 2. **PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation from Claire Ashley and Ben Webb on 'Getting underneath the data – a manager's perspective'. Claire and Ben showed members the data available to them and how it was used in managing their areas.

Nick Worth asked about the ease of use of VITAL and whether the technology needed updating. Ben advised that, although it has become complex, it is an important tool and can be individualised to meet college requirements. Claire Foster agreed that the need for investment should be kept under review. ●

In response to a query from Daran Bland, it was confirmed that VITAL includes quality information on assessments and tracking against targets. Helen Rumbold asked how trigger points for action were identified and whether they could be adjusted. It was confirmed that reports are customisable and can be targeted.

Claire Ashley and Ben Webb left the meeting

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

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

A discussion took place about raising understanding of deep dives and it was agreed that these should be considered at the Corporation CPD event. ●

#### 4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 17 November 2021 were reviewed and approved.

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

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Vicki Locke advised that there had been a surge in absences due to Omicron after Christmas but retention was still positive. Information on best and worst performance has been added to the sheet and is useful.

Daran Bland asked about the areas which had seen a decline in retention and the effect on course viability. Vicki confirmed that the curriculum planning process determining course offers for next academic year will take this into consideration. Vicki advised members that one significant issue has been mental health and wellbeing and some learners have left to go into employment. Some learners in Care left due to not wanting to have vaccinations to work in the sector. In response to queries from Nick Worth and Axel Sedgwick about the effects on different groups, it was confirmed that those students who had missed learning in years 10 and 11 were struggling most.

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

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Vicky Locke advised members that in the main intended progress was being made. The document has evolved to make it more useful and Daran Bland commented that the information it contains gave confidence to members.

Helen Rumbold asked how the employer event had gone and it was confirmed that it had been very successful with positive feedback from learners and employers. In response to a query from Nick Worth, Kelly Harris advised how the college uses feedback from employers to inform its curriculum offer.

## **7. LEARNER VIEWS**

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

Daran Bland asked about the issue HE learners had identified with IT. Kelly Harris confirmed that there had been some issues with Eduroam which were being addressed. Helen Rumbold commented that it was good to see the IT team involved in resolving this issue.

Kelly advised that there concerns about apprentices' understanding of Safeguarding, PREVENT and British Values after lockdown. This is being woven in with employability work for apprentices.

Daran Bland asked how the best and worst performance ratings are fed back to the areas. Kelly confirmed that it goes into the curriculum areas' KPIs. Helen Rumbold asked if the feedback contained any surprises and it was confirmed that it did not. Nick Worth commented that the feedback on English and maths was frustrating.

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

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

Kelly Harris advised the committee that the February staff development programme would include sessions addressing identified issues. Daran Bland asked if the SEND staff development would be internally provided. Kelly advised that it will include external input but draw on college expertise as well.

Committee members expressed the view that there is a sense of purposes and coherence to the work being carried out. The papers presented contain useful information which is being used internally as well.

9. **LEARNER SERVICES**

The committee noted Dawn Telford's imminent departure from the college and was advised of the arrangements put in place to cover her role.

10. **NEXT MEETINGS**

It was noted that the next meetings of the committee would be held on 27 April and 22 June 2022.