

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 APRIL 2024

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### 1. PRESENT

Daran Bland (Chair), David Fannin, Kimberley Jones, Jurate Matulioniene, Nick Worth, Fiona Wrisberg and Sandra Williamson.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Heather Marks (Deputy Principal) and Tom Hughes (Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards).

Adam Wardell (Director of Learning: Health & Care Industries) and Vicky Markham (Senior Learning Lead: Foundation & Preparation Studies) attended for item 2 only.

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Foster.

Attendance 88%

### 2. PRESENTATION – FOUNDATION/HN CURRICULUM ALTERATIONS

Adam Wardell and Vicky Markham gave a presentation on changes to the Foundation/High Needs curriculum.

The committee was told about changes to the curriculum for next year. The rationale for the changes and the way in which other colleges' expertise had contributed to them were explained. A new qualification for progression skills will offer a carousel of learning. Another new initiative is supported internships. Nick Worth asked if learners will do different blocks within progression skills. Vicky confirmed that they will and explained that it will give learners broader experience to make a decision about their future direction. Daran Bland asked about learners who will not progress to level 2/3 and what will be done for them. Vicky advised that each level has a separate set of units to create an individualised programme to meet learner needs. All learners need a vibrant curriculum and Adam advised that enrichment will be a key feature.

Sandra Williamson asked about digital support for learners to make them ready for work. Adam explained that there is a digital skills short course within the provision and IT is embedded across the curriculum. Fiona Wrisberg asked whether it was made clear to learners that there was no progression route for horticulture at the college. Nick commented that there were lots of opportunities in horticulture and agriculture. It was suggested that learners with an interest in this could go on to supported internships in a relevant area. Adam said that EHCP outcomes could be broken down into elements for tracking. David Fannin suggested that community settings could offer progression opportunities by hosting placements. Vicky highlighted the challenges with activities outside college hours arising from rurality and David offered to assist with this. Adam identified the need to foster independence for these learners.

Daran thanked Adam and Vicky for the presentation and commented that the new curriculum looks to have greater depth and variety. He asked that staff CPD requirements to support this should be kept under review.

### 3. ACTION LOG

Members reviewed the committee's action log.

#### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 7 February 2024 were reviewed and approved.

#### **5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2023-24**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Heather Marks highlighted key points within the data. Looking at the attendance data, Nick Worth asked whether the college was working with 16-18 year old learners to understand barriers to attendance. Fiona Wrisberg commented that next year English and maths is to be embedded within curriculum areas to increase learners' understanding of its relevance. Tom Hughes advised that a lot of learners have preconceived expectations about English and maths and need to understand its importance. Heather commented that motivating learners who have had a disappointing experience of English and maths over five years prior to accessing further education is challenging to deliver in nine months. CPD for staff focuses on motivating and inspiring learners and Tom commented on different approaches tried. Fiona highlighted the need for better information, advice and guidance.

Daran Bland asked about disparity in the performance of vulnerable groups and whether more granularity of information could be provided. Heather suggested a deep dive to look at this and identified a disparity between the forecasts for learners with EHCPs to achieve and the Ofsted findings. Deep dives, possibly termly, would give a more holistic measure.

#### **6. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-24**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal on the QIP which incorporates the Post Inspection Action Plan.

Heather Marks reported sound performance overall. Two areas, closing English and maths gaps and level 1/level 2, are a particular focus. Nick Worth asked if there was adequate support for level 1 learners. Heather commented that performance issues often went back to behaviour with particular challenges seen in construction and hair and beauty. Nick commented that it would be interesting to see if this is a national picture. Tom Hughes advised that the college is investing in support for the pastoral burden with new roles being put in place in the form of progress coaches across the college.

#### **7. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

Members received a report from the Head of Quality which was presented by the Assistant Principal: Performance, Quality & Standards.

Tom Hughes reported positive outcomes from lesson observations. Key priorities are learner attendance and behaviour with poor behaviour being identified in some areas.

Daran Bland asked about the identification of Outstanding observations and whether staff are engaged in the process. Tom advised that all staff have 1:1 meetings with the quality team after observations. Lesson observations are a non-judgmental development process identifying where areas are strong or need development. In response to a query from Nick Worth, it was confirmed that lesson planning is reviewed closely.

Daran commented that outcomes were looking good and Tom advised that developments being implemented should see further improvements next year. Heather Marks said that achieving consistency is the focus.

Daran asked what upskilling and developing confidence looked like in the context of SEND and whether there was a link between SEND and performance. Tom said that identifying SEND needs in advance would help in identifying CPD requirements. There are ongoing sessions led by the SEND team in the hub and specific expertise requirements will be looked at in observations. Nick asked whether there was an upward trend in SEND numbers and Heather confirmed that there was. There is a need to plan for increased numbers coming through from the schools.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 19 June 2024.