

BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE
QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (“the Committee”)
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2019, 5.00PM
IN ROOM 204 ON THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE CAMPUS

Present: K Gilmour (in the Chair) Independent Member
H Knight Independent Member
A Parmley Independent Member
L Wareing Co-opted Subject Specialist

In attendance: P Howard, PDH Advisory Limited (Clerk to the Corporation)
C Dunn, Vice-Principal for HE and Student Enhancement
K Coughlan, Director of Quality and Standards
H Fogg, Director of Higher Education
S Hughes, Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum

1. Chair and quorum

K Gilmour took the chair and noted that due notice had been given to all committee members and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, he declared the meeting duly convened and constituted.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no opening declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 May 2019 were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

With regard to minute reference 10, the committee noted that the teleconference to further consider the OfS access and participation plan had taken place on 30 May 2019 as planned. The teleconference had considered the draft report to the Corporation Board and the draft access and participation plan and had recommended the same to the Board for approval.

5. Dashboard

The regular dashboard showing progress against a number of quality metrics was provided to the meeting and confirmation was provided by the committee that the metrics shown within the dashboard were appropriate. Accordingly, the format of the dashboard was agreed for the remainder of the year.

In response to a suggestion from the committee, it was agreed that an additional column would be added to the dashboard to show where the relevant reports are reviewed by the Committee.

The committee noted the content of the dashboard.

6. Impact of education: Level 3 value added report

The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the level 3 value added data for FY2018/19. Note was made of the fact that the data was embargoed until publication.

The Director of Quality and Standards noted that the internal standards included in the report are higher than the standards set by the DfE and confirmation was provided that performance was positive in comparison with the national average. In response to a question from H Knight, the Director of Quality and Standards gave an overview of the associated student experience and assurances were provided that students are motivated to improve as much as possible.

A detailed discussion was held on the content; particularly around the high targets set for students and the wider student experience. As a result, the committee was satisfied that the challenging targets and expectations set do result in excellent learning gain achievements by students.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

7. Impact of education: outcomes for maths and English 2018/19

The Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum presented a report to summarise the outcomes for maths and English in FY2018/19. Particular note was made of the positive performance although confirmation was provided that, internally, continued improvements are sought. The excellent standard of functional skills education was also highlighted.

The committee discussed the approach to supporting students in English and maths and the Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum advised that the programme in place was based on feedback from other organisations where excellent results had been obtained as well as suggestions from the teams at B&FC. Examples of some of the recent changes to provision were provided.

The committee held a detailed discussion around the intent for the maths and English curriculum and the high pass rate and learning gain for GCSEs were recognised.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

8. Impact of education: outcomes for FE, HE and apprenticeships

The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the interim outcome measures for FE, HE and Apprenticeship students in FY2018/19.

The committee noted B&FC's continuing strong performance and discussed the outcomes across a number of curriculum areas. In response to a question from A Parmley, the Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum summarised some of the issues experienced nationally with Apprenticeships as a result of reforms.

K Gilmour commented on some of the initiatives implemented at B&FC to further improve Apprenticeship recruitment and retention. The committee discussed the enhancements that had been implemented in relation to "due diligence" checks of employers and their commitment to Apprenticeships and the challenges within some market sectors was recognised.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

9. Impact of education: interim student progression and destinations

The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the interim student progression and destination data for 2018/19 and noted the importance placed on this topic by Ofsted. In response to a question from L Wareing, the Director of Quality and Standards outlined the process for determining students' progression and destinations.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

10. Quality of education: learning, teaching and assessment

The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to inform the committee of the quality of education and arrangements for testing the implementation of the curriculum intent. The committee discussed and challenged around curriculum reviews and noted the extensive number of learner walks undertaken and how this information is used to inform and enhance learning; particularly surrounding strengths and weaknesses.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

11. Curriculum implementation: 2018/19 student and employer survey

The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the results of the 2018/19 student and employer survey and clarification was provided that, whilst the survey provides a snapshot of views, regular interaction with students and employers also takes place throughout the year.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

12. OfS annual assurance statements 2018/19

The Vice-Principal for HE and Student Enhancement provided a verbal update to inform the committee that Office for Students had recently confirmed that there was no longer a requirement for organisations to provide annual assurance statements and that the requirement introduced in FY2017/18 had been part of the transitional arrangements.

The committee received and noted the verbal update.

13. Annual report of HE Academic Board

The Vice-Principal for Higher Education and Student Enhancement provided a report to summarise the business undertaken at the HE Academic Board during 2018/19 as agreed at the previous meeting to provide additional context to the governance arrangements surrounding Higher Education, in line with Shattocks' University Governance Triangle.

A number of comments and suggestions around the content of future reports were made, and the Vice-Principal for Higher Education and Student Enhancement agreed to consider these outside the meeting.

The committee received the report and noted the content.

14. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the Quality and Standards Committee will be held on 26 November 2019, 5.00pm on the University Centre Campus.