

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 17.30 VIA TEAMS.

Present:

- Mr Stuart Harper (Chair)
- Mr Raymond Sloan (Interim Chief Executive)
- Dr Liz Finnigan
- Miss Evie Martin
- Dr Laura Milner
- Dr Thomas Moore
- Mrs Hilary Singleton
- Mrs Angela Whiteside

In Attendance:

- Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum
- Mrs Carolyn Davison, AD HE & FE Quality Improvement
- Mrs Elaine Nesbitt, Acting AD Apprenticeships & Essential Skills
- Mrs Sinead Lavery, Boardroom Apprentice
- Miss Lindsay Armstrong, Secretary to the Governing Body

The meeting convened at 17.30.

A01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair reminded those present to declare at the commencement of the meeting interests held in any matter to be discussed. No interests were declared.

A03. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2023

The Chair referred Members to the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023. These were checked for accuracy and unanimously approved on proposal from Dr Moore and seconded by Mrs Singleton.

A04. MATTERS ARISING

Members were advised that actions arising from previous meetings will be addressed at the February 2024 meeting.

A05. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

Dr Milner informed that she had met with the College Safeguarding Lead prior to Christmas in her capacity as designated Safeguarding Governor. She committed to report on how safeguarding is being managed within the College and advise on key headlines at the next meeting of the Education Committee.

A06. WHOLE COLLEGE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-2023 close out
 • **Quality Improvement Assurance**

Mr Harper informed that College management are seeking the Committee’s recommendation to approve the Self Evaluation, Quality Improvement Impact Report 2022-24 and Quality Assurance and Annual Quality Assessment Return and advised on

ACTION BY WHOM
Dr Milner

the need to convene the extraordinary meeting to meet the Departmental deadline. He thanked staff, noting the huge amount of work that has gone into producing the document.

Ms Shackels referred Members to the DfE slides detailing the requirements to assess the College's overall effectiveness. She informed that to provide assurances on quality a precise critique has been provided to the Committee to evidence the monitoring process.

Ms Shackels referred to the colour coded performance descriptors advising on retention and achievement standards and informed by data recorded on the EBS system and holistically arrived at having considered student feedback, student support and the quality of estates providing a realistic training environment.

Members were referred to Section 1 of the report advising on the operating environment, quality monitoring processes, College strengths and areas for improvement. Ms Shackels advised that from 2014, the College has supported employers in creating 979 employment opportunities and advised that leadership and management has been rated 'outstanding'.

In response to a query from Mr Harper questioning the rationale for grading, Ms Shackels advised that following external evaluation and feedback, there is an opportunity for benchmarking comparison within the sector and externally.

In response to a question from Mrs Whiteside, Ms Shackels advised that SRC is on par with sector leaders in terms of outcomes and uniqueness of offer.

In response to a query from Dr Moore regarding the capture of the student voice in the document, Ms Shackels referred to the College values and specifically of 'Putting the Learner First' and 'Striving for Excellence'.

Members noted the self-evaluated review of performance in relation to Level 0-3, School Partnership provision, HE in FE, HLA, Training for Success, Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Essential Skills and Business Support. Ms Shackels advised that areas for improvement are mapped into the quality improvement plan. She informed that 92% of traineeships have resulted in positive progression, with 42% entering full-time employment.

In response to a query from Mr Harper noting 23.4% non-achievement in Traineeships, Ms Shackels advised on some issues in completing all components of the course, normally Essential Skills.

In response to an enquiry from Mrs Whiteside regarding the low retention rate in Level 1, Mrs Nesbitt advised on the possibility of learners progressing to Level 2.

Responding to a query from Mrs Singleton regarding the low achievement rate in Level 7, Mrs Nesbitt advised that the figure is impacted by students realising an excessive commitment to workload.

Members were informed that a Level 2 ETI inspection is expected post Easter.

Mrs Davison provided detail on the four case studies referenced. She informed that Project Based Learning is embedded across all curriculum programmes and advised on the benefit of realistic learning environments helping develop transversal skillsets.

Members noted the case studies on the Specialist Lecturer role, on outstanding practice in WorldSkills competitions which revealed that 85% of competitors have reported a growth in confidence and desired increase in STEM enrolments.

Dr Moore spoke to a thorough report providing a faithful and analytical account of curriculum provision.

Members discussed the development of AI as part of the curriculum strategy going forward.

Mrs Davison referred Members to the detail on collaboration, reporting and engagement. Ms Shackels advised on a sector event scheduled for 7 March that will promote peer support and development.

All Members indicated their approval on the assurance statements to be submitted to the Department.

A07. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to report.

A08. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 17.30 via TEAMS.

The meeting concluded at 19.03.

signature redacted

19 March 2024.
DATE

