

BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE
QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (“the Committee”)
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2021 AT 5.00PM
BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

Present:	H Knight	Independent Member (in the Chair)
	A Mills	Independent Member
	L Wareing	Co-opted Subject Specialist
In attendance:	K Coughlan	Director of Quality and Standards
	C Dunn	Vice-Principal for HE and Student Enhancement
	H Fogg	Director of Higher Education
	P Howard	PDH Advisory (minutes)
	S Hughes	Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum

1. Chair and quorum

H Knight took the chair and noted that due notice had been given to all Committee members and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, she declared the meeting duly convened and constituted.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from H Broughton.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no opening declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

- (i) The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to amendment of the attendance record to reflect that H Fogg did not attend the meeting and had sent her apologies.
- (ii) With this amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.
- (iii) The Committee reviewed the action log and noted that all actions due had been completed.

5. Quality and standards scorecard

- (i) The Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum summarised the current quality and standards scorecard and the Committee discussed the content.
- (ii) The Vice-Principal for Quality and Curriculum drew the Committee's attention to the fact that it receives a suite of reports during the year which cover each of the key metrics, as set out in the final column. The Committee also noted the use of stretch targets across the College.
- (iii) The Committee received and noted the content of the scorecard.

6. Impact of education: Outcomes for further education, higher education and apprenticeships

- (i) The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the key outcome measures for further education, higher education and apprenticeships.
- (ii) The Committee considered the report in detail and noted the recent national media attention around 'grade inflation'. The Committee noted that grades are criterion-referenced and that any increase in grades was not a result of any external factors. In reaching this conclusion, the Committee noted that many of its degree apprenticeship employers applied high entry requirements for their students which was likely to have contributed.
- (iii) In response to a question from A Mills, the Director of Quality and Standards described the work that is undertaken with students on joining the college to ensure that the impact of them having studied remotely in their final year at school is mitigated as much as possible.
- (iv) In summarising this item, H Knight noted that the report demonstrated that the management team had undertaken detailed analysis to understand the data and could explain how this translated to individual students and the support which is provided to them.
- (v) The Committee received and noted the content of the report.

7. Impact of education: Student progressions and destinations in further education and higher education

- (i) The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the progression and destinations of both further and higher education students. The Committee also noted the rigorous internal surveying of students to understand their destinations to evaluate the relevance of the curriculum to employers.

- (ii) H Knight referred to the Graduate Outcomes survey, which is conducted 15 months after students graduate, and noted that this survey would provide additional data for consideration. In response, the Director of HE and Student Enhancement also reminded the Committee that longitudinal educational outcomes are also sought, in order to ensure a broad understanding of performance.
- (iii) A Mills commented that, for previous generations, career plans had generally been seen as linear in terms of incremental progression over a number of years but that many students nowadays adopt a different approach, informed by their circumstances at any given point in time. In response, the Director of Quality and Standards noted that the oversight of progression and destinations took account of personal development and that this had been built into overall course programmes.
- (iv) H Knight summarised this item by commenting that B&FC provided an empowering environment for its students which draws on employers' feedback and serves to build its learners' confidence.
- (v) The Committee received the report and noted the content.

8. Quality of education: Learning, teaching and assessment

- (i) The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the lesson observations undertaken during 2020/21 and to share broader feedback around learning, teaching and assessment over the same period.
- (ii) Particular note was made of the inclusion of commentary around the limitations and opportunities associated with delivering inclusive learning, teaching and assessment in the digital environment during the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- (iii) In response to a question from L Wareing, the Director of Quality and Standards described the formative approach to learning walks across B&FC and the summative nature of graded observations. In response to a question from A Mills, the Director of Quality and Standards advised that the number of learning walks had been increased during the pandemic period to provide additional support to staff and as a way of sharing best practice.
- (iv) The Committee received the report and noted the content.

9. Quality of education: Value added (level 3) and distance travelled (level 2)

- (i) The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to outline the interim 2020/21 performance data in respect of value added for level 3 students and distance travelled for level 2 students. Particular note was made of the fact that the Department for Education would not be publishing institution-level performance data based on GCSEs and other regulated general, vocational or technical qualifications for 2020 and 2021 as a result of COVID-19

restrictions that were in place. Nonetheless, the College continued to calculate value added and distance travelled internally in order to maintain the necessary stretch.

- (ii) The Committee scrutinised the results and noted the College's performance. A discussion was also held on the importance of being clear about how the organisation is using the performance data.
- (iii) The Committee received the report and noted the content.

10. Curriculum implementation: Customer satisfaction

- (i) The Director of Quality and Standards presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the results of various internal surveys undertaken throughout the year as well as the National Student Survey which is run annually by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Office for Students.
- (ii) The Committee held a discussion on the role of the Students' Union throughout the pandemic, noting that it had provided invaluable support and virtual companionship to a number of students during the lockdown period but that, for many students in work and studying part-time, the Students' Union may not have as much relevance as for a full-time student.
- (iii) The Committee received the report and noted the content.

11. Curriculum implementation: Annual report of the Higher Education Academic Board

- (i) The Director of Higher Education presented a report which had been circulated with the agenda to summarise the activities of the Higher Education Academic Board during 2020/21.
- (ii) The Committee noted the usefulness of the report in allowing it to seek assurance of overall quality and standards at B&FC.
- (iii) The Committee received the report and noted the content.

12. Date, time and venue of next meeting

- (i) The next meeting of the Quality and Standards Committee will be held on 16 November 2021, 5.00pm by videoconference.