



## HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE

### MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

**Meeting Commenced: 4.30pm**

**Meeting Ended: 6.15pm**

**Attendance: 71%**

**Quorum 3**

#### **Governors Present:**

Clive Reid, Julia Heap (Principal & Chief Executive), Susan Ayers, Gill Banks, Jennifer Worsdale (Chair)

#### **In Attendance:**

Andrea Murphy Deputy Principal  
Liz Duncan Assistant Principal  
Greg Scully Assistant Principal  
Fatema Hussein Clerk to the Corporation

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Jason Lancaster and Cathy Berry.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare any direct, indirect, personal, pecuniary or prejudicial interest on any item on the agenda.

There were no declarations.

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Agreed that: the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June are approved as a correct record and authorised for publication

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Action Progress log was reviewed and it was noted that all items had been included on the agenda for discussion.

#### **5. Teaching, Learning & Assessment Reports**

##### **5.1. Deputy Principal Report**

The Deputy Principal presented her report with the following points highlighted to the Committee:

### **5.1.1 2021/22 provisional Results (Apprenticeships)**

- The 2021/22 cohort consisted of 229 apprentices, and was made up of 14 apprentices on Frameworks (6%) and 215 apprentices on Standards (94%)
- The achievement rate was 58% against a national rate of 51.8%
- Only 1 Apprentice had failed the end point assessment
- 23% of learners had achieved a distinction
- The College believed that it had made significant improvements to the quality of the apprenticeship provision
- There was a stable team of work-based tutors, monthly monitoring of apprenticeship provision, improved quality assurance and improvement processes
- A new onboarding programme for new apprentices had been introduced to ensure information, advice and guidance was of a high quality
- College remained committed to delivering 3 and 4 year apprenticeships in construction and engineering as this met the local, regional and national skills needs

#### Quality Improvements in Apprenticeship Provision

- Training at Hopwood (T@H) had 90 apprentices complete their End-Point Assessment across the 2021/2022 academic year
- 58 apprentices achieved a Pass, 8 achieved a merit and 24 received a Distinction
- Level 3 Electrical Installation had the most apprentices (20) complete their End-Point Assessment where 6 out of 20 achieved a Distinction across the assessment methods and the remaining 14 achieved a Pass
- The 1 fail was in the Fire & Security Apprenticeship and the success data would be monitored to ensure a 100% pass rate
- In the 2021/2022 academic year, two 'Apprentice On-Programme' surveys had been completed in January 2022 & September 2022
- The January 2022 survey result had shown an improvement in all questions asked

#### Governor Questions

**Q.** Were all the results first time passes?

**A.** The majority of these were. Results were positive where Apprentices stayed with the College. College was looking to introduce some shorter courses as this helped with retention and achievement.

### **5.1.2 Feedback from NCFE meetings re health, health science and science T levels**

- The College, along with other providers of T levels in health and science, had been very disappointed with the results of learners
- Learners who had been predicted A\*-C grades received Ds, Es and Us
- This had impacted on 2 health and science routes: supporting adult nursing and laboratory science
- College had been in urgent meetings since the results were published with the awarding organisation, NCFE
- There has been much coverage of this issue in the press and social media
- NCFE had admitted that there had been issues with the depth and breadth of the core paper content, the difficulty of some of the exam questions and late changes to the Employer Set Project (ESP)

- The impact on learners at the College had been significant, and no learners wished to progress onto the laboratory science course or wanted to start this course as first year students, despite having given offers
- For learners on the supporting adult nursing pathway, there were 4 learners who wished to continue and none who wished to start this as first years.
- Extra resource had been allocated against the second year, supporting adult nursing
- College continued to be an advocate of T levels and the other 4 pathways that started last academic year had been successful
- Concerns had been formally expressed to the DfE/Ofqual/IfATE and learners and parents had been kept informed throughout

Governors agreed that students should not have been disadvantaged by this and stated that Colleges needed to be more vocal in expressing their concerns.

The Principal advised that a meeting had been held with the local Rochdale MP who had been made aware of the issue.

### **5.1.3 Overview of the College's Skills Paper in preparation for the enhanced Ofsted inspections**

- The updated further education and skills handbook set out how Ofsted would enhance its full inspections of Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges and designated institutions, from September 2022
- This would include a new narrative sub-judgement on how well Colleges were contributing to skills needs
- In order to prepare for this, the College had produced a Skills Paper and created a list of high-level contacts who would be willing to speak to Ofsted
- Additionally, each curriculum area had produced a skills paper which outlined how that curriculum in particular met local, regional and national skills needs

Governors suggested that it would be useful to pre-warn employers and ensure that someone from the employer was available to speak with Ofsted.

## **5.2. Report from the Assistant Principal Quality**

### **5.2.1 2021/22 Access/HE Provisional Results**

- There were currently 103 enrolments across all HE and higher-level courses with significant cohorts of students yet to enrol
- There were 130 H.E. funded learners against 188 last year
- The most popular programmes in HE continued to be established courses such as Sport, Games and Film and Animal Management
- Teacher Education was again popular with strong cohorts already recruited on existing Level 3 and 4 courses, with more scheduled to come in and enrol
- The Level 5 teaching and education course was entering its second year with first graduates from this expected next summer
- Access to HE enrolments was 119 against a target of 150
- The Access to Nursing and Health Sciences courses were very popular this year with 45 and 27 students enrolled respectively on them
- Art & Design and Humanities courses were low on numbers so far this year with only 4 and 1 enrolments respectively

- Staff had been in touch with other prospective applicants and the start dates of these courses had been pushed back by a week to allow for more time to recruit

### 5.2.2 Report on Work Experience Placements

- At the start of the new academic year employers had been reluctant to take learners on a work placement and were still being impacted by the effects of Covid
- This had been a particular issue in Early Years and Health and Social Care and Sports students who undertook sports activities in schools
- At the end of the academic year 21/22:
  - 254 learners had relevant part time work
  - 597 learners had completed a work placement
  - 311 learners had completed a substantial industrial placement
  - 29 learners had completed a work taster
  - The Careers and Employability team had engaged with 344 employers'

### 5.2.3 QIP Update

An update on the Quality Improvement Plans was presented and it was noted that many of the actions had been achieved.

A Governor suggested that it would be useful to highlight what impact the actions had made in future reports

#### **ACTION:**

Assistant Principal Quality to include in future report

### 5.2.4 Careers Update\*

The report from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority was received and it was noted that all of the Gatsby benchmarks had been met

### 5.2.5 Enrichment report for 21/22

Governors reviewed the enrichment report and it was noted that a wide range of enrichment opportunities had been provided to students in the last academic year.

## 5.3. Report from the Assistant Principal Curriculum

The following update was provided to the Committee:

### 5.3.1 2021/22 provisional Results - 16-18, English and Maths, Adults (including outstanding outcomes)

Achievement by age group and overall was:

Age Group	2021–2022	2018-2019
16-18	81.2%*	80.7%
19+	86.2%*	91.8%
Overall	83.2%*	85.8%

- There were still 323 outstanding outcomes

- Comparison had been made with 2018-2019 as this was the last year in which standard assessment practice was undertaken
- The increase in 16-18 achievement was a positive outcome for the College and reflected the further improvements made in both teaching and assessment practice
- GCSE performance in English was comparable with 2018/19 with a marginal decline in pass rate and a slight increase in high grades
- GCSE performance in Maths had shown a marginal decline in pass rate but significant drop in high grades
- The College had invested significant resources in supporting learners with anxiety issues as they tackled these exams
- The 19+ results were disappointing and poor attendance due to Covid self-isolation had impacted negatively on the results

### **5.3.2 Enrolment Update**

- 3458 students had currently been enrolled against a target of 3364
- The ESFA contract number was 3157
- 1447 adult students had been recruited to date and College was on course to achieve the planned number

The Committee requested that the name of all Departments was listed in full in future reports

#### **ACTION:**

Assistant Principal Curriculum

### **5.3.3 Report on impact of interventions on attendance**

- Attendance was 86% for all courses and all ages, and this matched the final position achieved in 2020/21
- The College had made a substantial number of interventions (883) to support full-time 16-18 learners
- English and Maths attendance linked to study programmes was 77% and 76%

### **5.3.4 Internal Progressions and UCAS destinations**

- Internal progression for the academic year 2021/22 into the academic year 2022/23 had met the College KPI (Key Performance Indicator) of 80%
- College continued to see a steady increase in UCAS applications and the number of students gaining places at university

### **5.3.5 T Level Update**

- Exam performance had been mixed across the T levels
- Enrolment had been affected by the adverse publicity surrounding the Health and Science T level
- This T Level had been closed and would result in a loss of earnings for the College
- College continued to expand the T level range and would be advertising all the existing courses plus an offer in Hair and Beauty

## **6. KPI (Key Performance Indicators) Update\***

The performance indicators were reviewed and noted.

## **7. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 (SAR Validation) at 2.00pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 4.40pm

\* Standing Item