

NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 17 January 2024 on MS Teams commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: Dr P Graham (Chair), Ms J Hemphill, Mr M Higgins, Mr G McAllister, Mr B Patterson, Mr S Shevlin, Mr D Small

In Attendance: Mrs C Brown, Ms H Hagan, Ms H Hampsey, Mr S McCartney, Dr L Monteith

Mrs K Wallace (Secretary)

65.1 Apologies/Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An apology was received for Mr Dornan.

65.2 Declarations of Interest

The Chair noted his connection to the Head of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) which would be referred to later in the meeting.

65.3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 were approved.

Proposed: Mr Patterson Seconded: Mr Small

65.4 Draft Self Evaluation & Quality Improvement Impact Report

Consideration was given to the high level summary presentation outlining the requirement for this mid-cycle review document and the intensive workload to complete the document was noted.

Mrs Brown paid tribute to Dr Monteith and Ms Hagan for their lead on the review and process. She confirmed her view that this comprised an honest and accurate assessment of the College position in terms of performance against the high level actions set by the College.

Mr Small congratulated the team on the significant piece of work. He questioned how the information was used both internally and externally and the value of same to the College, and referred to fluctuations in enrolment numbers and how this impacted on achievement.

Ms Hagan outlined how the exercise was used to add value internally, and Dr Monteith advised its external use to inform ETI's workplan.

Mrs Brown spoke on the value of the process for communication with teams on improvement and support of achievements.

The Principal thanked Ms Hagan, Ms Hampsey and Dr Monteith for their work on the report. He advised that the review process was used to identify necessary strategic changes, assess value of actions put in place and ensure continual improvement of services to learners.

The Chair commented on the potential for change from identification of good practice and areas where this could be replicated.

Mr Shevlin recognised the internal value of the review to the College and queried what could be addressed at the GB strategy day; whether information was shared across colleges; how that supported the need for strategic alliances; and whether there was any way to record trends.

Mrs Brown noted significant collaboration in devising a traineeship methodology through collaboration with Curriculum Directors and Quality Managers across the sector.

The Principal highlighted key topics for the GB Strategy Day including ES, re ensuring actions being put in place improve outcomes; and business engagement re low completion rates from students taking up DfE fee funded qualifications and outcomes for traineeships. He also noted the importance of ensuring that projected delivery targets and timeframes recognise the impact of strike action.

Committee were advised that minor changes could be incorporated into the Report before submission to the Department on 22 January.

Actions: Alongside regular updates, Committee also to receive updates on any developments on the QIP throughout the year. Presentation of any figures to also show absolute figures alongside rather than percentages.

Committee recommended the SER & QIP for signature by the GB Chair and Principal.

65.5 Update on ETI Engagement

Dr Monteith reported on the ETI Associate Assessor conference on 28 November 2023 at which she had discussed the L3 review in March and ETI's offer to support the College on its ES offer, with Inspectors. She advised of an upcoming meeting with the ES lead from BMC prior to meeting with ETI to discuss the way forward for the College.

The Chair welcomed engagement by ETI, which had been a topic previously noted for action by Committee, and offered his support to progress if needed.

65.6 Teaching & Learning Strategy

Members considered this document, which had previously been shared on 20 September 2023 alongside the Curriculum Strategy.

Dr Monteith provided the context for the Strategy in identifying a framework for staff, focused on 10X and aligning with the Curriculum Strategy and the Corporate Plan, to ensure informed decision making.

Members noted that the Strategy was currently shaping the L&D plan for lecturing staff and would be used to formalise induction for new staff.

Mr Patterson also commented on the relevance of the Strategy for new governors.

In response to the Principal's query on constraints which the Committee needed to be aware of, Dr Monteith confirmed that none were envisaged with the core of the Strategy developed to support a revised approach for staff. She advised that minor typographical errors would be addressed in the final proof reading of the report.

The Chair welcomed an excellent document underpinned with sound rationale. He noted that decision making would be supported by data held and collected by the College.

Action: The Teaching & Learning Strategy would be made available as part of the Education Committee report to the GB meeting on 6 February 2024.

65.7 Independent Review of Education

The Chair highlighted the main themes of this report to members.

The Principal noted that DfE representatives attending the Strategy Day on 6 February would pick up on the key topics of the report.

The report was noted.

65.8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 28 February 2024.

The meeting concluded at 5.24pm.

Dr P Graham 

Date 28 February 2024

(Chair)

Mrs K Wallace 

(Secretary)