

BARNSELY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT	J Thirkell	Governor
	N Bowen	Governor
	C Booth	Governor
	P Helm	Governor
	P Bird	Governor (Staff)
	S Burkinshaw	Governor (Student)

IN ATTENDANCE	D Harding (VP Quality & Adults)
	C Webb (Deputy Principal)
	P Singh (VP Comms & Recruitment)
	G Garvey (Principal: Sixth Form college)
	E Wheatcroft (Minuting secretary)

Prior to the start of formal business the Chair requested that congratulations be passed onto the College following the results of the recent mock Ofsted inspection and to recognise the part the Committee had played.

APOLOGIES

15.00 Apologies for absence were received from the Clerk to the Board.

MINUTES

15.01 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

15.02 The Committee received a list of actions arising from the last meeting, noting that these had been addressed.

DATA DASHBOARD

15.03 The Committee were referred to the report circulated in advance of the meeting. The VP Q&A explained that the data dashboard provided an in-year real time snapshot of key performance areas and could include attainment, qualifications, distance travelled or value added, progression and performance in English and Maths. Members of the Committee considered the data sets the Board would want to review given there was a significant amount of data available and it would not be feasible to analyse every area. The VP proposed retention, learner satisfaction and financial performance be key areas as the indicators could be interrogated further. Discussion took place and it was agreed to include the following data groups:

- Student in year progress
- Retention of 16/17 year olds
- Attendance
- Learner survey
- Students who leave within 6wks including retention
- Graded lesson observation profile
- Annual report on progression and destinations

15.04 The VP stated that the Committee would receive the data for the whole College but also analysed by department. J Thirkell enquired about the possibility of receiving additional reports within the dashboard, such as a termly staff sickness absence report. The VP agreed to look into addressing this.

RESOLVED 15.05.1 to recommend the agreed areas to be included within a data dashboard to the Board

RESOLVED 15.05.2 that the agreed Data Dashboard be presented as a standing item to every meeting of the Committee.

PERFORMANCE IN THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

15.06 The Principal of the SFC, G Garvey, made a presentation to the Committee, explaining that trial exams (formerly known as mock exams) had been undertaken for the second year. The trial exams provided an in-year measure of how students were performing, but did not predict the grades. He went on to explain that the trial exam papers were based on actual exam questions approved by SFC managers. The results were collated centrally and results slips produced to replicate an actual 'results day'. When marking the papers, teaching staff were asked to be honest about student performance in order to provide a real picture of the students' performance.

15.07 Student level data was available for all subjects and intervention strategies had been implemented. Students showing ALP's in blue in any subject were taken up by the course tutor. Where any student showed blue in two or more subjects this suggested that there were broader issues and these were dealt with by the student's PPM (Personal Progress Mentor). PPM is a pastoral SFC only role. If any issues could not be addressed at this level the matter was escalated to the Director of Learner Experience SFC, and if still not resolved then the Principal SFC would become involved.

15.08 Key points from the trial exam results were summarised for discussion.

- Value Added at A2 was an issue and there was significant work to be done
- Some subjects underperforming, but was expected
- Teaching staff were encouraged to be empowered to mark the papers rigorously and honestly
- Analysis of why A2 students were not reaching target grades was being undertaken currently
- Gaps carried forward from AS into A2 were being addressed
- Whilst there were some new teachers, course leadership was largely the same
- Results had been discussed at student level with course leaders identifying strengths and areas for improvement and the Quality Improvement Plan updated
- March monitoring would show the results of the interventions and would identify a forecast grade.

15.09 Following a question from the Chair regarding the new leadership arrangements, the Principal said he was very content, commenting that a new member of staff would be joining the team on 2 March 2015 as the Academic Ambition Co-ordinator (AAC). The new member of staff had studied Politics at Lancaster University and achieved a 1st degree following the success of one A* and four A's at A level. She would become the school link for what were formerly known as 'gifted and talented' students.

15.10 Following a question on recruitment of staff, the Principal SFC reported that he believed the new contracts had generated a better response and a higher calibre of applicant.

RESOLVED 15.10.1 To present the results of the SFC March monitoring process and comparison data between November 14 and January 15.

STUDENT PROGRESS IN-YEAR (PREDICTED GRADES)

- 15.11 The VP Q&A reported that it had not been possible to provide the data for the meeting and requested this be deferred to the next meeting.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE FE AND HE

- 15.12 The Committee had received a report prior to the meeting highlighting detailed departmental data on attendance. The link between high levels of attendance, retention and successful completion was well established. The Principal commented that attendance was very good compared to other further education institutions and that he had no concerns.

The report was noted and received.

STUDENT RETENTION FE AND HE

- 15.13 The VP Funding, Data and Compliance presented the report on retention which compared the retention rates at February 2014 with the previous year. The benchmarks referred to 2012/13, as later national benchmarks no longer included the duration of a course, therefore to ensure comparative data to previous years, the report referred to duration.
- 15.14 Adult retention was well above benchmarks and college targets in all programmes. A slight fall in retention on adult L3 was due to an Access course in Early years which was currently being redesigned. 16-18 retention was above national average for all programmes and 2% above college targets for Long level programmes.

The report was noted and received.

PROGRESSION AN DESTINATION DATA

- 15.15 The Committee received a very comprehensive report highlighting detailed data on progression an destination. The VP Comms and Recruitment summarised the data in the tables within the report. Compared to 2013 the data was very positive. It was reported that at the mid-year point UCAS applications for Higher Education courses had increased, whilst the number of applications to UCB remained the same.
- 15.16 The Principal of the SFC believed that the number of successful applications to Russell Group Universities would increase this year. He added that where students were applying for university places they were confident of achieving the required grades – there were no speculative applications. Students were also being encouraged to look at Universities further afield to make informed choices.

The Report was noted and received.

LEARNER SURVEY RESULTS – INDUCTION

- 15.17 The summary of the learner satisfaction survey at induction identified an increase in the number of participants. The scores for general facilities and wellbeing remained the same as the previous year. The survey had included a new section specifically for the SFC. The VP Comms and Recruitment referred to the data, explaining how it compared to whole College and national averages. He believed that the transfer of the SFC to the new building would make a significant difference to levels of student satisfaction. Quality Assurance was up compared to the previous year and above benchmark. Ratings of 81% and above demonstrated that students were receiving and enjoying a good experience.

The report was noted and received.

SAR

- 15.18 The Committee received the whole College SAR for 2013/14 together with a covering report highlighting key headlines and inspection judgements. A fall in performance had been identified in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12. The current overall grade of outstanding had been validated at mock inspection in January 2015.
- 15.19 it was agreed that improvements were required with stretch and challenge. The VP advised that it was necessary to identify areas for development and to agree the approach for moving forwards. The new Ofsted inspection regime for 2015/16 was likely to be more school based and it was therefore suggested that the Committee should consider the key areas for improvement and what the College excelled at. Governors were keen to develop a better understanding of the new inspection framework. It was proposed that the action plan for the areas of improvement should be discussed at the next meeting.
- 15.20 Areas that were less strong included Healthy Eating and Social, Cultural, Media and Moral Education (SCMM). The mock inspection had made the college more aware of the position with regard to value added. Student progression was consistent in every course in every department, with the exception of L3 where there were some inconsistencies.

RESOLVED 15.21.1 to recommend approval of the SAR for 2013/14.

RESOLVED 15.2.2 to present an Improvement Action Plan to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED 15.2.3 to present an overview of the new common inspection framework for 2015/16 to the next meeting.

ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS

- 15.21 The Committee considered a draft cycle of business for the whole year, with reporting scheduled into four meetings during the year. The Committee agreed the cycle, subject to the Destinations and progression data being presented to the Committee in February each year rather than November, due to the UCAS deadline being January.

RESOLVED 15.211 To recommend the annual cycle of business be approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.22 The VP Q&A reported that a QAA review had taken place on 23 February 2015. Following the receipt of the report the VP would provide formal feedback on the review at the next meeting. He added that the visit had gone very well.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 15.23 It was proposed to convene an additional meeting on 30 April 2015 at 4.30 pm. With the final meeting as scheduled on Tuesday 23 June 2015.

Signed _____ N BOWEN (Chair)

Date _____