

## BARNSELY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2015

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<b>PRESENT</b>	N Bowen	Governor (Chair)
	C Webb	Governor (Principal)
	P Bird	Governor (Staff)
	E Holmes	Governor (Student)

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	D Harding (VP Quality & Adults)
	A J Oaks (Clerk to the Board)
	P Briscoe (AP Access to Learning)
	L Copley (AP HE)
	J Miccoli (VP Teaching & Learning)
	L Leek (Principal, SFC)

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#### APOLOGIES

- 15.64 Apologies were received from R Eccleston. The Clerk advised the Committee that B Mansford wanted to join the Committee and that his membership would be ratified at the Board meeting on 15 December. The Chair welcomed this decision as it would strengthen the effectiveness of the Committee.

#### MINUTES

- 15.65 The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

#### MATTERS ARISING

- 15.66 The Committee received a list of actions arising from the last meeting. With regard to an overview of the CiF, (Minute 15.43) the VP Q&A had circulated a briefing and it was also an agenda item for the meeting. The Chair reported that he had recently attended a training event on the new CIF and encouraged colleagues to attend any similar events if they were able to, as it would be key to preparation for the college's next inspection.
- 15.67 He added that he also attended a breakout session at the recent AoC annual conference on British Values which had been a prominent feature in a recent pilot inspection. Further to the Chair's suggestion to share best practice, LL undertook to contact the College involved to obtain a copy of the interactive DVD.
- 15.68 The VP confirmed that the college's results had been circulated to governors at the end of the summer. In terms of the Data Dashboard (Mins 15.60 refer) The VP commented that whilst further work had been undertaken during the half term on a dashboard, it was not in a format ready to present to the meeting. Should the Chair or other members of the Committee wish to see the dashboard before the Board meeting, this could be facilitated. The Chair confirmed that he would meet with the VP to view the data.
- 15.69 With regard to the self assessment, whilst the results had been shared with the G&S Committee at its meeting on 24 September, a more significant piece of work was yet to be undertaken by the Board in terms of evaluating its performance and effectiveness based on the 2014/15 outcomes and looking ahead, to map effectiveness against the Code of Good Governance.

## COLLEGE SELF ASSESSMENT 2014/15

- 15.70 The Committee received a report summarising the outcomes of the self-assessment process for 2014/15. The VP Q&A explained that the College had self-assessed itself against the old CiF for 2014/15, and would be taking areas for further development into consideration under the new CiF for 2015/16. All areas were judged as Outstanding. Explaining further, the VP commented that the outstanding grades in some curriculum areas could potentially be at risk under the new framework, which was more holistic in its assessment, with less focus on people and more on examination successes and distance travelled; in essence, the all-round experience. The profile of the College and distribution of provision was summarised, the VP providing details of learners in scope and those not, which included HE learners, in the context of the data. Outcomes for Learners remained Outstanding.
- 15.71 The report highlighted strengths and areas for improvement against each of the key headings. The VP focused on the areas for improvement, discussing these and the actions being taken by management to bring about the necessary improvements, particularly in A2, and 16-18 GCSE English and Maths. Management were intending to implement a new strategy to bring about improvements in English and maths which would be discussed later in the meeting. In Teaching, Learning and Assessment, whilst it was reported that improvement had been rapid, management were aware of areas where further work was required particularly to engage learners in a consistent way across the college. The VP T&L provided details of work undertaken with the Advanced Practitioners in order to drive this forward. Two days had been spent during the week promoting English and maths facilitated by an external consultant, with a view to embedding it into all aspects of provision. Virtual learning continued to be developed to extend interactive and independent learning. The VP spoke of the Project Connect links to the new CiF and how British Values were being embedded across College.
- 15.72 Areas for improvement under Leadership and Management were summarised by the Principal, who emphasised the relentless focus on improving maths and English. Initiatives were being explored to ensure an appropriate level of skills amongst teaching staff. He spoke of the Area Based Review, advising members that the outcomes of the process may necessitate some changes to the way curriculum delivery was mapped to meet local and regional need. From January the new management structure would be implemented in order to continue to develop world class leaders and managers. The Committee noted that the profile of the college management and that of the Board had changed significantly in the last two years to reflect the government's agenda.
- 15.73 Referring to the judgements, the Chair asked if the process would be aligned to the new CiF. The VP Q&S reported that in preparation for the next inspection, from January 2016, work would be undertaken to form judgements against each of the key headings under the new CiF. The VP T&L spoke of the Departmental Enhancement of Learning Plans and how all elements of the new strands were incorporated into the process. The Committee were informed that the whole college SAR would be presented to the Board for approval at its meeting in December 2015.

The report was noted and received.

## AS/A2 RESULTS

The Chair welcomed the Principal of the Sixth Form College, Liz Leek, to the meeting and congratulated her on her appointment.

- 15.74 The Committee received the report from the Principal of the Sixth Form College, which highlighted the performance at the end of 2014/15. AS success rates had improved by 1.6% to 95.6%, 1.6% above national average. The number of learners leaving with at least 3 A Levels had increased by 7% and high grades at A2 had increased by 7.4%. ~AS success had also improved to 2.7% above national average although was below college targets by 3.3%. Achievement and retention had contributed to the rise, although both were also slightly below target. High grades at AS had increased by 5.4%.

- 15.75 In terms of ALPS scores, A2 had improved to 6, and AS to 3, the latter of which put the college in the top 25% of colleges nationally. LL explained the work that had been undertaken by the department in terms of scrutiny of risk areas, reformed subjects and new staffing, and was confident that the forecast of 2 for AS and 3 for A2 would be achieved at the end of 2015/16. The Committee were informed that the January mock examinations would be undertaken in the new building under real exam conditions to prepare the students. Following a question from the Chair regarding data collection and outcomes, LL reported mixed picture with some inconsistency in distance travelled but believed current predictions to be accurate. In response to further questions from the Chair, a full summary was provided of performance in the areas requiring improved performance and actions being taken to bring about improvements.
- 15.76 The Chair referred to the journey the department was still undergoing, and asked the Principal of the SFC to provide an overview of progress, particularly the impact of more stringent recruitment of teaching staff. LL believed that the structural changes, which had been significant had helped to ensure learners were enrolled on the right courses and that the new point score at entry of 5.8 for 2015/16 should make a difference. Whilst not outstanding yet, LL was confident of achieving 'good', which was a robust evaluation following a significant restructure and appointment of dynamic new staff.

The Report was noted and received.

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMANCE 2014/15**

- 15.77 The Assistant Principal HE introduced the report which summarised performance for 2014/15. 73.7% of College graduates had received an upper second class honours degree or higher, 24% of these gaining a first class honours degree. The results against each course had been provided in the paper. With 625 learners now enrolled at UCB, and the transitional changes that had been managed, the AP believed the results to be outstanding. In response to a question from the Chair about benchmarking like for like, the AP had obtained some external data that confirmed the college had performed extremely well, coming 48<sup>th</sup> out of 126 Universities in terms of performance. She added that it was difficult to benchmark HNC/HND, as these were Pearson qualifications, however the new frameworks, when introduced, would allow for trends to be analysed going forwards.
- 15.78 In terms of key risks, the AP reported that the college would continue to focus on learner induction as a recent survey had identified strong results in all categories which was clear evidence the strategies were effective. Retention and success rates were also pleasing, with 100% retention reported on all HE courses. This continued to be closely monitored. Following a question from the Chair regarding areas of further improvement, the AP commented that there were no specific areas of concern, however she would continue to focus on improving HND and Degree results.

The Report was noted and received.

#### **ENGLISH AND MATHS 2014/15**

- 15.79 The AP Access to Learning presented the report, summarising the results at the end of the year. Following changes to funding rules around learners undertaking GCSE results in Maths and English, there had been a 245% increase in enrolments which had been challenging. Whilst the number of learners passing the exam continued to increase year on year, the results for 2014/15 were disappointing. Functional skills results remained outstanding and significantly above national averages. This provided evidence of the college's drive to improve maths and English and its commitment to equipping learners with the skills required to progress to further study and employment.
- 15.80 Following a question from the Chair on how the data compared, the AP stated that official national averages had not been published. In respect of the areas to address, a continuing challenge remained that of motivating learners who enrol at the college having not achieved

a grade A-C in English and maths. This drive would continue with the development of standardised schemes of work and assessment targets. Discussion took place regarding the introduction of an English and Maths Graduate Teacher Training programme for 2015/16 which was to be extended to ensure the college had a pool of high quality, experienced and qualified English and maths teachers. To date four staff had enrolled on the programme. Discussing areas of good practice, the AP reported that the Essential Skills leaders' approach was reflected in the performance and was being promoted to other staff and departments.

- 15.81 The Principal spoke of the challenge at the start of the year with the increased number of learners taking resits and the impact poor attendance had had on the overall success rates. In respect of attendance, the AP explained the strategies that would be employed to drive up motivation. The Chair recognised that it had been a challenging year and was pleased to see the improvements that had been made and the continued commitment to maintaining high targets.

The Report was noted and received.

### **CHANGES TO COMMON INSPECTION FRAMEWORK**

- 15.82 The VP Q&A presented a report highlighting the changes between the old and the new CiF. Under the new regime, the College would still receive an 'Overall Effectiveness' grade, with four aspect grades: Outcomes for Learners, Quality and teaching, learning and assessment, and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare. At an operational level this would mean taking a more holistic view of the learning experience rather than the number and success rates of qualifications, which raised the importance of enhancement and how well learners were prepared for life after College. There was also a subtle move away from success rates to an increased emphasis on distance travelled and value added and progression / destination, and the inclusion of the Prevent agenda and British values.

- 15.83 The VP explained how the inspectorate would inspect and grade certain cohorts of learners rather than subject specialist sectors as they did previously. The Principal reminded Governors of the changes to the management structure, specifically the allocation of responsibilities to SLT members in respect of the sub aspects within the CiF. The VP Q&A advised the Committee that once the SAR was uploaded to the gateway in January 2016, SMT would begin reviewing the self-assessment to align with the new CiF to allow for a new version to be uploaded.

The Report was noted and received.

### **ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS**

- 15.84 The Chair proposed reviewing the business for the next meeting and future meetings together with the Clerk and VP Q&A and VP AL. The Clerk undertook to arrange a meeting in good time for the Agenda to be agreed and SMT notified.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- 15.85 The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1 March 2016 at 4.00 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date \_\_\_\_\_