

Minute 13: Student Success - Value Added

35. In response to a question from David Galloway, Vicki Illingworth stated that while progress was being made there was still some way to go to ensure that staff understood and used value added data more effectively.

Minute 27: Every Student Matters

36. David Galloway stated that he had found the presentation on safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults at the recent governor development event very illuminating. Before it he had no idea of the range of scenarios the College had to deal with.

QUALITY HEADLINES

37. The Committee received for consideration a report by John Bates setting out key strengths and areas for improvement.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 2 TO THE Minute Book copy)

38. John summarised the main features in respect of the positives and negatives in his report. In particular he referenced the significant improvements in both success rates and timely achievement for work-based learning which were now both significantly ahead of national benchmarks. He suggested that the key to the College's quality systems was to ensure that issues were identified and dealt with. While no areas of operation had been graded as unsatisfactory there was a particular focus on improving standards in Computing and IT, Construction and Maths and Science. Priority was being given to these areas in the newly initiated curriculum development reviews. Other areas of concern included the fall in success rates for 19+ students at Levels one and two.
39. Responding to questions from David Galloway, John stated that the College's policy of not turning students away had had an impact on quality with regard to Construction. He suggested that the College had been correct in not turning students away but that this had meant that there were more difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers. David questioned whether students in areas that were a grade three were receiving as good a deal as those in grade one areas and whether it was possible to guarantee that students would receive outstanding teaching. In response it was suggested that it might be possible to guarantee good teaching but that there would always be reasons for standards dropping, at least temporarily. Toby Salt stated that there was a small group of schools that did guarantee outstanding performance. They had been designated as 'teaching' schools and classified as moving from outstanding to great.

40. John stated that the primary aim of the College was to achieve consistency in all it did. Toby suggested that the size of the College made this extremely difficult compared with schools which were much smaller institutions. In response to a question from David Hett, Colin Whitaker stated that the target to eliminate grade three areas had been set for this year. His expectation was that two of the three areas would achieve the necessary improvement.

“FROM GOOD TO OUTSTANDING”

41. The Committee received for consideration a report from Colin Whitaker on the strategy for moving from good to outstanding.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 3 TO THE Minute Book copy)

42. Colin highlighted the main factors in moving the College to outstanding. In response to questions from David Galloway he suggested that the key area was the removal of variability in teaching and learning. Under the guidance of Directors he felt that Curriculum Team Managers and Course Team Leaders were the key to achieving the transition. Supporting this Frances Russell stated that over the past few months she had met all the Directors and many of the CTMs. She suggested that they were fundamental to securing progression. John Bates suggested that course organisation and leadership were also key and a lot of effort was being put into achieving excellence. In response to comments from David Galloway, John agreed to consider adding a reference to resources to his analysis.

OFSTED ANNUAL MONITORING VISIT

43. The Committee received for information a report of the main findings of the Ofsted Annual Monitoring Visit which took place in February.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 4 TO THE Minute Book copy)

44. John Bates explained that in the years between full inspection Ofsted sent two inspectors to verify the progress colleges were making. Their verdict at the end of their visit was that the College was making reasonable progress. John stated that in their feedback the inspectors had stated it was too soon since the last full inspection to be satisfied that the progress was being sustained and therefore they felt they could not give a higher judgement than this. In response to questions from David Galloway, John stated that the AMV was important. Had the inspectors determined that progress was unsatisfactory then the College would have been subjected to another full inspection. He suggested that if the College achieved the level of improvement planned in the current year it was likely

that the outcome of the next AMV would be that the College was making good progress.

OFSTED CARE STANDARDS COMMISSION INSPECTION

45. The Committee received for information the report from Ofsted of the recent Care Standards Commission Inspection.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 5 TO THE Minute Book copy)

46. Kate Easson stated that the College was delighted with the outcome which judged the College's provision as outstanding. She suggested that it was vital to have achieved a good outcome as failure to do so could result in the College's residential provision for 16 - 18 students being suspended. Kate outlined the process for the inspection which had taken place over three days. Richard Parker stated that while the focus of the inspection was on the College's residential provision and safeguarding of 16 - 18 students it ranged across all the student services provided for students whether or not they were directly related to accommodation. David Galloway stated that the report was fantastic and it was

Resolved:

That congratulations of the Committee be conveyed to Kate Easson and the Team involved in achieving a grade of outstanding in the recent Ofsted Care Standards Commission Inspection.

EVERY STUDENT MATTERS - SAFEGUARDING

47. The Committee received for consideration a copy of the annual safeguarding report prepared by Vicki Illingworth.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 6 TO THE Minute Book copy)

48. Introducing the report Vicki stated that it was based on the model introduced for schools by the County Council. She felt it would be sensible for the Committee to receive the report on an annual basis and for the Chairman to sign it off. Vicki stated that the summary of activity section had not been completed because the College was not normally involved in case conferences. Looking forward Vicki suggested that if the Committee was happy with the report she would try to integrate it with the Every Student Matters Self Assessment Report at the end of the year. After a brief discussion it was

Resolved:

That an annual report on safeguarding be produced and if possible integrated with the Every Student Matters Self Assessment Report.

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

49. The Committee received for information the performance dashboard related to success rates.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 7 TO THE Minute Book copy)

50. Shelagh Legrave stated that although the overall success rate showed as 79 per cent the final figure was 80 per cent. A data error had resulted in a number of achievements not being counted but, as explained to the Finance & General Purposes Committee, it had not been noticed before the final ILR was submitted and it could not now be amended. Shelagh stated that the software being used only disaggregated the data into the LSC's sector subject areas. These did not necessarily match the College's curriculum structure but she was hoping to secure some software that would. Shelagh stated that while the overall improvement was welcome the graphs showed a continuing decline in Level one 19+ success rates. Strategies were being put in place to address this. Shelagh indicated that a wider range of dashboard reports were being developed to include graphs on aspects such as attendance and retention as well as success rates. These would be circulated to the SMT and CTMs monthly as well as being presented to the Committee.

CURRICULUM AREA DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

51. The Committee received for information a report from John Bates on the recently introduced curriculum area development review process.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 8 TO THE Minute Book copy)

52. Presenting the report John Bates stated that five curriculum areas would be reviewed this year and the remainder next year together with cross-college areas. Three reviews had been undertaken so far with the most recent this week. Each review was followed by an action plan prepared by the CTM for the area. John suggested that, as the brief summary of the Computing review showed that the team did not pull any punches. David Galloway questioned why there were differences between some of the measures and areas of review compared with the paper considered earlier on moving from good to outstanding. Colin Whitaker suggested that the differences related largely to purpose. The curriculum reviews had a particular focus on

the day to day student experience whilst the earlier report covered a much wider range. Colin suggested that key themes were emerging that would feed into the 'good to outstanding' agenda.

CURRICULUM DESIGN TO PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS

53. The Committee received a presentation from Lisa Smith, CTM for Music, Dance and Drama on initiatives introduced in her curriculum area to promote improved student success by better curriculum design. Lisa outlined the steps involved in breaking down the student year and developing the qualification they took so that they built up as the year progressed. Richard Parker stated that it was important that the process was seen as a motivational tool by staff and not as a means for hiding poor success by transferring students who were in danger of falling to a lesser qualification. Supporting this Shelagh Legrave stated that there were financial implications that also needed to be taken into account. In response to questions from David Galloway, John Bates stated that the model could be adopted in all curriculum areas. Lisa had recently given a presentation on the model to the Quality Forum. Lisa confirmed that she had received requests for support from a number of CTMs.
54. David Galloway thanked Lisa for her presentation. He suggested that it was of real benefit to the Committee to receive reports from CTMs and other practitioners on specific topics and hoped these would continue.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

55. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 25 June 2009 at 4.00 pm in the Cathedral Room.

REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

56. David Galloway invited governors to consider whether any items of business discussed at the meeting might have been dealt with in a different or more appropriate way. He asked that governors contact David Smith or himself if they had any thoughts on this.

Chairman

Date