

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010

1. PRESENT

Mrs H Wright (chair) Ms S Daley, Mrs L Ladds, Mrs P Smith, Mr R Stanley and Mrs B Ward.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mr P Collins (Director of Business Development), Mr D McMillan (Head of Quality Improvement) and Mr J Rees (Director of Curriculum and Standards).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 September 2009 were reviewed and approved. Committee members were provided with feedback on the outcomes of the inspection of HE provision.

3. LEARNER INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

Members received a report from the Director of Business Development on the Learner Involvement Strategy implementation. Information was provided on the Learner Representative conference which had taken place at the end of last term and the students' preferences for use of some allocated funds were reported. It was noted that student governors had been nominated through this forum and should be attending the next meeting of the Corporation. A particular interest was expressed in the students' views on smoking on site and it was agreed that consideration should be given to asking students and staff what their views were on the possibility of making the College a non-smoking site.

4. SELF ASSESSMENT

Members received a report from the Director of Curriculum and Standards on the College's Self Assessment Report which included summaries of the judgements and the grades. Specific information was included on Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity since these were areas of focus for the committee this year. It was noted that the grade so far was broadly consistent with inspection outcomes. Detailed consideration was given to the contents of the Self Assessment Report and it was noted that no provision was considered to be less than satisfactory and the grade profile was improving. As well as Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity more information was provided on user engagement and it was noted that decline in funding was a potential threat to Equality and Diversity because of the impact it would have on College provision.

It was noted that the College has put a lot of emphasis on Child Protection requirements and that the profile of the Learners contributes towards pressure on support provision and funding. This was also noted to be an issue in the light of funding challenges.

A discussion took place about the presentation of the report and it was suggested that judgements could perhaps be colour coded for easier reference in the future.

5. SUCCESS RATES 2008-09 AND COLLEGE TARGETS 2009-10

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on the success rates for 2008-09. Particular note was taken of the extremely good AS results which had been achieved and the strong achievements in Train to Gain of timely success. The committee noted that there had been significant improvements in 16-18 long course success rates and that the key skills success rates was significantly above national averages. Areas for improvement were noted to be success rates for 19+ level 2's and retention for adults on long level 1 courses.

The committee considered in detail the success rates and proposals for targets for 2009-10. Individual targets were agreed by the committee and it was decided that a report should be made to the Corporation on outcomes, trends and targets.

6. TRAINING QUALITY STANDARD

Members received a report from the Head of Employer Engagement on the successful outcome of the College's application for the Training Quality Standard. The committee was pleased to note the outcomes and the fact that achieving this standard would produce an automatic outstanding grade for employer responsiveness within the Framework for Excellence. It was noted that the College was now applying for Part B recognition in Childcare Learning and Development which was a successor to the CoVE arrangements.

7. 2009-10 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members received a report from the Director of Quality and Standards on the Quality Improvement Plan for the College. It was noted that the concentration was mainly on moving from good to outstanding status. It was agreed that updates should be presented to each meeting of the committee on progress against the QIP.

8. DCSF PERFORMANCE TABLES

The committee was provided with information on the College's performance on AS and A2 levels and equivalent in the DCSF performance tables. It was agreed that the Corporation should be advised of this information.

9. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 21 April 2010.