

HARLOW COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2011

Membership: * Riccardo Abela
* Chris Christofides (Chair)
* Colin Hindmarch
* Mike Thorne

**denotes present*

In attendance: S Young, Deputy Principal
D Sheridan, Clerk to the Corporation

363 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from N Spenceley

364 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

365 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were approved as a correct record.

366 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

367 Draft Success Rates 2010-11

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of the Principal on Success Rates for 2010-11. The Principal reported that the long course success rate for Harlow College for 2010/11 is 94.1%

These results exceeded the national benchmarks for FE colleges and the targets set for the college by the Corporation. The results also exceeded the highest learner responsive rates achieved by FE colleges to date.

The Committee noted the success rates for 16 – 18 year olds and 19+ by level and by comparison to national benchmarks.

Governors considered performance by the teams and the Principal confirmed that two teams who had not performed well had identified how they could improve in 2011/12.

The Standards Committee considered the college success rates for apprentices which were 85% for overall success (national benchmark of 74%) and 84% for timely success (national benchmark 62%). Governors identified that the college's performance exceeded that of the APEX partners and discussed the reasons for this and how the partners can be supported to improve.

The Standards Committee congratulated the college on its success rates and thanked staff and students for their hard work.

368 Comparative Performance of Different 'Categories' of Students for Learner Responsive Success Rates

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of the Principal on the performance of different categories of student. Colin Hindmarch reminded the Committee of the importance of ensuring that the needs of disadvantaged groups were addressed sufficiently to enable them to perform as well as the majority.

The Committee noted that 'non-white' students do slightly better at the college than the white students, with a success rate of 93.9% compared to 93.1%. The Committee noted that Chinese, white Irish and white/black Caribbean students under perform in the non-white categories. The Principal confirmed that the teams were addressing the performance of these learners.

The Principal reported that learners with a disability perform as well as those with no disability and that male students perform better than female students by 1%, which is counter to the national position.

369 Department for Education Scores and ALIS Value Added

The Principal reported on the outcome for Value Added for 2010/11 as measured by the University of Durham A Level Information System (ALIS). This measured value added for learners on level 3 programmes and then compared the outcome with the 1365 other institutions using the ALIS analysis.

The ALIS score for Harlow College in 2010/11 was +2.2 which placed the students' results within the top 1% of providers. The Committee noted that the schools with value added scores above that of the college comprised eight independent schools and six state funded schools. Harlow College was the highest placed college.

The Principal reported on two Department for Education scores. The College's draft score for average points per qualification entry is 240.2 points, up from 228.5 in 2009/10. The College's total point per entry score for 2010/11 was 728 points, up from 659 points in 2009/10.

370 Student Satisfaction Questionnaire

The Standards Committee received and discussed the outcome of the Student Satisfaction questionnaire completed in Autumn 2011, with a three year comparison.

Governors noted differences in responses between teams for the questions asked. The Principal reported on how the teams use the outcome of the questionnaire to make improvements

371 Achievement Against Targets 2010/11

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of the Principal which identified the targets which were achieved in 2010/11 and those that were not achieved.

The Committee discussed the targets that were not met. Governors noted that there was a 5.4% increase in the number of learners gaining university places but that there was a reduction of 1.3% in accepting places. The income target for workplace training was not met and Governors noted that employer engagement had been achieved through other Skills Funding Agency income streams.

The increase of BME staff to within 1% of the percentage of BME students enrolled at the college was not reached because of the increase of BME students by 3%.

The target of decreasing the number of young people who are NEET in Harlow was not met. The number of NEETs in Harlow has increased as the economy has declined but the closure of the Connexions Service in the town has meant that it has grown increasingly difficult for the college to identify and contact NEETs.

372 Recruitment of Students and Apprentices 2011/12

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of Sue Young, Deputy Principal on the progress made to date in reaching learner recruitment targets for 2011/12.

In presenting the learner numbers, Sue Young alerted the Standards Committee to the fact that there were difficulties with the software provided by the Skills Funding Agency Data Service. It was believed that this was a problem for Colleges across the sector.

The Principal confirmed that the college was making every effort to resolve the software problems, particularly as the first formal submission of learner enrolment data is to be made on 6 December 2011.

373 Any other business

There was no other business.

374 Dates of future meetings

Spring Term 2012:	Tuesday 21 February 2012	8.30am
Summer Term 2012:	Tuesday 12 June 2012	8.30am