

HARLOW COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2010

Membership: *D Brunwin (Chair)
 *C Christofides
 *C Hindmarch
 D Lucia
 S Lynch
 M Thorne

**Denotes present*

In attendance: N Spenceley, Vice Principal
 S Young, Vice-Principal
 D Sheridan, Clerk to the Corporation

282 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from S Lynch, D Lucia and M Thorne.

283 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 were approved as a correct record.

284 Matters arising from the minutes

284.1 ILR Fact Finding Review

The Principal confirmed that no further information had been received.

285 Ofsted Focused Monitoring Visit and report on what the college requires to do to become outstanding

The Standards Committee received the Ofsted report of the Focused Monitoring Visit held on 10 and 11 November 2009.

The Standards Committee received and discussed at length the report of the Deputy Principal entitled "The Path to Outstanding".

The committee noted the following points,

- i) Equality and diversity – a limiting grade in inspection. Equality and diversity needs to have a higher profile in the college and Governor involvement is necessary in order to demonstrate compliance with legislation and to promote its importance.

- ii) Retention and success rates are high and progress can be demonstrated. The college will need to continue to demonstrate a sustained programme of good results, consistent across the college.
- iii) Safety and safeguarding – to demonstrate compliance with legislation, the need to promote and embed good practice across the college and to ensure consistency and vigilance.
- iv) The need to continue to improve teaching and learning.
- v) The importance of identifying issues and risks and ensuring that they are being addressed.
- vi) Consistency in all aspects of the colleges' work.

The Committee thanked the Deputy Principal for his report.

286 DCSF Post-16 Performance Tables and Analysis

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of the Principal on the college's relative performance in the DCSF School and College League Tables 2008/09.

The committee noted the average point score per exam entry per student in 2008/09 as 213.5 (203.2 in 2007/08). The Essex average for the same year was 205.2, the LSC average was 207.1 and the England average 211.7.

The average point score per student was 622.9 (619.5 in 2007/08). The Essex average for this is 758.5, the LSC average is 746.7 and the England average is 739.1.

The Principal informed Governors that Harlow College students take fewer A2/AS and national diploma units than the Essex and national averages. The meeting discussed how the college was addressing its performance to improve the total point score per learner.

The committee considered contextual value added and noted that the college's performance places Harlow College in the top 25% of schools and colleges nationally and in 10th place in the league of Essex Schools and Colleges.

287 Implementing the Teaching & Learning Strategy

The Standards Committee received the report of the Principal which measures teams' progress in implementing the strategy.

288 Learner Attendance and Retention

The Standards Committee received and considered the report of the Principal on learner attendance and retention.

Governors noted that overall attendance for 2009/10 to date was 90% with 18 teams on target or better and 8 teams not. The meeting discussed how teams were ensuring good attendance and noted that variable performance would be a concern to Ofsted. The Principal informed Governors of measures to enable absent learners to catch up on work missed.

The Standards Committee considered retention figures to date that indicated that the end of year figure would average 95%, an increase on last year’s performance. Governors noted individual courses where retention was 95% or less.

The Standards Committee thanked the Principal for his report.

289 Success Rate League Table

The Standards Committee received and considered the LSC Success Rates – All Providers’ Table 2008-09. The table showed Harlow College in 34th position out of 726, thus placing the college in the top 5% of providers funded by the LSC.

The committee discussed the performance of the college in comparison to other providers, including those judged by Ofsted to be outstanding. Governors again emphasised the need for consistency to sustain and improve the college’s position.

290 Any other business

There was no other business.

291 Dates of future meetings

Summer Term 2010 Tuesday 15 June 2010 8.30am

Chair

Date