

**HARLOW COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held on Tuesday 23 November 2010**

Membership: \* C Christofides (Chair)  
\* R Abela  
\* C Hindmarch  
D Brunwin  
D Lucia

\* denotes present

In attendance: D Sheridan, Clerk to the Corporation  
M Coleman  
M Prodger  
M Ray  
P Taylor

**316 Apologies for absence**

The Standards Committee received apologies for absence from D Brunwin and M Thorne.

The Committee noted that S Young and N Spenceley were unable to attend as they were involved in the Ofsted Inspection.

**317 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Standards Committee received and approved the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 September 2010.

**318 Matters arising from the minutes**

318.1 Recruitment of Learners 2010/11

The Standards Committee received an update from the Principal on the recruitment of learners in 2010/11.

The Principal reported that the College was on track to meet its target for full-time learners. The number of students on work based learning programme was now on target, having been slightly behind. The recruitment of learners onto project work was behind target. This is because the Skills Funding Agency contracts expected in April were not issued until October. Learners for PCDL Programmes were not profiled to start until the Spring and Summer terms.

**319 Socio-Economic Performance Indicator Report**

The Standards Committee received and considered the SEPI report which comprised data from the index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 applied to individual learner postcodes and their programmes of study in 2008/09. The report had been provided by Ofsted as part of the background information for inspection.

The Principal reported that the SEPI report provided a visual overview of College performance benchmarked against other FE College Providers for outcomes for 2008/09.

Governors noted the table for all providers. This showed that the College was placed fifth out of all providers for its success rates. The Principal reported that the College’s success rates for 2009/10 mapped against the same data would be shown as second out of all providers. For learners aged 16-18 years, the College was also placed fifth for its 2008/09 results.

Governors discussed the SEPI report and agreed it was a useful document in comparing the College performance against other FE providers and in illustrating how the College has moved in its performance. Governors noted that the College was not considered as delivering to deprived learners, within the average index of Multiple Deprivation score of 74% (where 0% = most deprived, 100% least deprived).

The Principal confirmed that whilst the SEPI report was for 2008/09, inspectors would work from the 2009/10 outcome.

The Standards Committee thanked the Principal for his report.

**320 Success Rate 2009/10**

The Standards Committee received the success rates including inspection view, work based learning, Train to Gain, 14-16 learners, Entry to Employment (NEET) for 2009/10.

Governors noted that the College continued to perform well against national benchmarks for both adults and young people aged 16 – 18 years.

The Principal reported that whilst results were overall good, there was an issue regarding consistency of outcome, with some teams whilst performing at national benchmark level were at a much lower level than the better performing teams in the College.

Governors noted the success rate of the College as follows:

<b>09 / 10 Success Rates (%)</b>						
<b>Level</b>	<b>Nat Rate 16 – 18</b>	<b>Harlow College Rate 16 - 18</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Nat rate 19+</b>	<b>Harlow College Rate 19+</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Entry</b>	79	90	+11	81	86	+5
<b>Lev 1</b>	78	89	+11	73	93	+20
<b>Lev 2</b>	76	86	+10	74	85	+11
<b>Lev 3</b>	77	87	+10	73	92	+19

The Principal confirmed that the College target for learner responsive (inspection view), ie, closing the gap on the 2008/9 success rate and 100% by ¼ of the gap, was achieved, with the success rate moving from 84% to 88%. The success rates of the poorly performing teams were noted and Governors received success rates for all teams for long courses.

The Standards Committee noted the success rates for learners aged 14 – 16 was 91% (national benchmark 67%).

The Standards Committee noted the College success rate for Apprentices as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>07 / 08</b>	<b>08 / 09</b>	<b>09 / 10</b>	<b>National Benchmark</b>
Overall	59%	72%	83%	71%
Timely	48%	68%	81%	58%

The College has also successfully managed its consortium partners to ensure adequate quality in 2009/10.

The Standards Committee noted the success rates for Train to Gain as follows:

<b>Train to Gain Success rates</b>	<b>2007 / 08</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Overall	82%	91%	92%
Timely	67%	82%	89%

The Principal reported that young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) attend the College Entry to Employment (E2) Programmes. The key outcome for E2E is positive progression into further education, an apprenticeship or employment. In 2009/10 the outcome of Harlow College E2E learners was 67% into a positive progression in comparison to the national benchmark of 55%.

The Committee discussed the teams that have performed less well in the College and the Principal confirmed the different types of intervention that would be required to raise their success rate.

The Committee noted the team summaries and congratulated the staff and students of those achieving high success rates. The Principal was thanked for his report.

**321 Comparative Performance of Different ‘Categories’ of Students for Learner Responsive Success Rates**

The Standards Committee received the Principal’s report which showed success rates by equality and diversity impact measures. The Committee noted success rates for ethnic minority groups, for learners with learning difficulties, disabilities or health problems and for those receiving additional learning support. The success rates were also shown by gender, age and by places of residence.

The Committee noted that students with a disability or health problem perform better than those with no disability or health problem. The Principal reported that the success rate for ethnic minority students is 2% below that of white students (nationally ethnic minority students perform 4% worse than the white majority). For long courses, ethnic minority students have a success rate 12.7% above national benchmarks for ethnic minority students.

The Principal informed Governors that young ethnic minority students performed at the same level as white students. The adult ethnic minority students on English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes, however, were not performing well. Governors noted the success rates for individual ethnic minority groups and identified that Bangladeshi students, Chinese students and Pakistani students were not performing as well as others. Again, many of these students were linked to the ESOL programme and a major cause for their relatively poor performance was known.

The Principal confirmed that the performance of all disadvantaged groups would continue to be monitored.

**322 Department of Education Scores and ALIS value added**

The Standards Committee received the Department for Education Score and ALIS value added score for 2009/10 for Level 3 programmes.

The Principal reported that the value added scores for 2009/10 placed the College within the top 6.5% nationally.

The Principal reported that the College's provisional score is 1041.5, up from 1019.9 in 2008/9. This provisional score places the College in the top 2% of all providers nationally. For average points per qualification entry, the College's draft score for 2009/10 is 228.5, up from 213.5 in 2008/09. The meeting discussed these results and noted that only one other College – Runshaw College – has both high success rates and high value added.

**323 Student Satisfaction Questionnaire**

The Standards Committee received the Principal's report and survey outcome.

The Principal informed Governors that a key aspect of the teaching and learning strategy is putting the students at the heart of the College. One way of measuring this is through the student satisfaction survey. The student response rate was 55.3%. The Committee received the results of the survey, a comparison of results with those for Autumn 2009 and the actual survey outcomes.

The Standards Committee noted that the percentage of students dissatisfied with their experience for autumn 2010 was 1.47% compared with 2.4% in autumn 2009. The percentage of student with the highest level of satisfaction was 39% compared with 35% in 2009.

The Principal described how the teams use the outcomes of the survey in their self-assessment report and how improvements required were fed into team quality improvement plans. The termly reviews would consider the outcome of the survey whilst identifying what was required to be done to achieve targets.

The Committee reviewed at length the responses to the questions on bullying and student safety and noted individual student comments. Governors noted that 2% (36) of students had felt unsafe and that 3% (44 out of 1702 students) had been bullied. 1% of apprentices/work based learners (19) had been bullied in the work place. 75% of students reported that they had been told what to do if they were bullied.

The Principal reported that the College was concerned for the welfare of these students, particularly as it seemed that only 50% of these students were identified and being supported. The rate of bullying at the College was low and lower than that in schools. The number of learners not feeling safe had decreased by 1%, from 3% in 2009 to 2% in 2010.

**324 Achievement Against Targets 2008/09**

The Standard Committee received the report of The Principal of the achievement of strategic targets in 2009/10. The Principal reported on targets not met for NEETs (arising from changes in funding), work place training, community cohesion projects and overall ethnic minority success rate.

**325 Self-Assessment Report 2009/10**

The Standards Committee received and approved the Self-Assessment Reports for 2009/10 and quality improvement plans arising from the assessment. The Committee agreed the report should be sent to the Corporation in December for approval.

The Standards Committee received the Quality Improvement Reports for the Academies and noted that they were also available at team level. The Committee agreed that these were a good mechanism for reminding teams of the key elements of the Teaching and Learning strategy. Governors agreed that September should remain the starting point for the reports.

**326 Any other business**

There was no other business.

**327 Dates of future meetings**

Spring Term 2011	Tuesday 22 February 2011	8.30am
Summer Term 2011	Tuesday 14 June 2011	8.30am