



Minutes of a meeting of the Corporation held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 1730h in Room FO84 of the College

Present: Nigel Holliday (Chair); Yvonne Bannister; Claire Dunn (from Min No: 18/25); Peter Ellwood; Elizabeth Hull; Phil Jardine; Elaine Jordan; Michael Priestley; Alistair Mason; Chris Nattress; Val Pallister; Denise Rollo; Professor Jill Stewart

By teams: Elaine Clinton; Jacob Leach

Apologies: Sophie Kelly; Robert Milburn; Andrew Ward

Also Present: Karen Wilson, Deputy Principal; Iain Glendinning, Vice Principal; Jane Murray, Clerk

### **12/25 Minutes**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **13/25 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **14/25 Stakeholder Report**

The Quality Manager presented a mid-year picture. It was asked about some declining trends in respect of certain elements of employer feedback and it was noted this survey was still open and that this was a snapshot at a point in time. An improving picture had been noted in the past week.

Congratulations were offered on the increased participation rate for the NSS survey and it was noted that the NCfN team had played a significant role.

It was also noted that there had been a low response rate from parents and asked whether there were any trends in respect of complaints from parents which was an issue in some other schools in the area. It was not thought that there had been specific issues, however, certainly the method of engagement with parents was under review with a view to improvement.

Other areas for review included engagement with foundation learners, who may struggle with some of the terminology, and higher education learners who

may be part-time. It was also noted that the way in which the voice of changemakers in College might be captured was also under consideration.

In consideration of complaints and compliments, it was asked whether there were any trends, particularly in respect of professional behaviours. It was thought not, although HSC continued to be challenging, but this was more around our offer and was already known to Governors

## **15/25 KPIs**

The Deputy Principal presented the KPIs. Recruitment figures were by now well-known with increases in lagged funding anticipated in the coming year. Apprenticeship recruitment has also been strong though below target. However, in response to questioning it was not thought there would be a significant impact on financial targets as the apprenticeships we did have were higher value.

It was noted that a lot of work had taken place for apprenticeships more generally. However, while overdue reviews had decreased significantly, unfunded learners were still of concern and staff turnover in delivery teams continued to be an issue. It was asked and confirmed that apprentices at risk included SL apprentices.

The Board was reminded of the trauma approach to learners in considering learners at risk, where a more supportive approach was being taken. This could have an impact on attendance and this was particularly the case for English and maths. This had an impact on the overall attendance figures for 16-18 year olds, as the underpinning attendance for study programmes was strong. Other attendance figures were strong and this was anticipated to have an impact on overall achievement rates for this year.

## **16/25 Curriculum Update**

The Vice Principal was able to report that the recent Ofsted inspection of teacher training had received very positive feedback, including a suggestion that it would be very close to outstanding if there were still such a category.

In another recent development, 14 Sellafeld apprentices had gone through End Point Assessment, with 14 passing or passing with merit.

Apprenticeship retention was very positive for the year at 77.1, with that for study programmes and adult provision at 94%, with anticipated gains in achievement rates as a result.

Progress with low carbon course development was noted, along with development work on a social work pathway in partnership with the local authority.

Good retention for a majority of courses was welcomed, although some concern over retention on some of the sub-contracted provision was of some concern and assurance received that this was being monitored.

It was asked if there was progress in securing more staffing in electrical engineering and this was ongoing, however, it was being managed.

#### **17/25 Confidential Session and Minutes**

Resolved -

- 1) To move into confidential session
- 2) That the minutes of the meeting held in confidential session of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **18/25 Financial Intervention – Confidential**

The Principal brought the Board up-to-date in respect of intervention activity.

#### **19/25 Standalone Case – confidential**

The principles of a stand alone case were shared with the Board.

#### **20/25 Finance Update - confidential**

The Deputy Principal updated the Board on the latest finance and corporate developments.

#### **20/25 Open Meeting**

That the meeting be re-opened.

#### **21/25 Governance and Policy**

The Sexual Harassment Policy, reviewed to align with recently introduced legislation was approved, but noted that further revision would be required in the autumn when further legislation was anticipated to make any disclosure a public interest disclosure and occasioning a simultaneous review of the whistle-blowing policy.

The senior postholder's pay statement was approved for publication, as was further membership of the Remuneration Committee.

It was noted for the record that both the terms of office of Phil Jardine and Michael Priestley were due to expire at the end of the academic year. Given current circumstances and uncertainty, and having discussed the issue with FE Commissioner team, it was requested that they be approved for membership for a further year (noting that they may step down sooner).

**Resolved –**

- 1) That the Sexual Harassment policy be approved and reviewed later in the year;
- 2) That the Senior Postholder Pay statement be approved;
- 3) That Elaine Jordan be appointed to the Remuneration Committee.
- 4) That Elaine Clinton be appointed to the Remuneration Committee following the next review of the standing orders.
- 5) That on expiry of his term at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, that Michael Priestley be appointed from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.
- 6) That on expiry of his term at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, that Phil Jardine be appointed from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

**The meeting closed at 1940h.**