



**REASEHEATH COLLEGE BOARD**  
**QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2024 at 10.00am  
Committee Room, Reaseheath College

- Present: Jane Cowell (independent) JC (Chair)  
Karol Bailey (independent) KB (*via videoconferencing*)  
Peter Green (independent) PG  
Alastair Taylor (independent, associate) AT (*via videoconferencing*)  
Phil Gibbon (staff) PGibbon  
Marcus Clinton (principal) MC
- In attendance: Paul Spearritt (vice principal, curriculum, and quality) PS  
James Eagney (assistant principal) JE  
Iain Clarke (assistant principal) IC (*items 1-2 inclusive*)  
John Kendal (assistant principal) JK  
Wendy Watson (head of quality) WW  
Steph Frazer (SU president) SF  
Jackie Schillinger (head of governance) JS

**PART A unless stated**

item	Content
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening items</b>
1.1	Apologies and Declarations: Apologies were received and accepted from David Pearson, Mike Gorton, Isabella Yates, and Alex Hickey. Student Union president Steph Frazer attended for the student governors. No declarations were made to the meeting. The meeting was quorate and remained quorate throughout.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held on 9 November 2023 and the note of the briefing held on 1 February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.</b>
1.3	The rolling action log was reviewed for assurance actions complete. On matters arising it was confirmed: -the Cheshire East safeguarding audit had been completed and will be reported through to the full Board in March as part of the termly Safeguarding Report. -Review of foundation provision will be presented at the next Quality and Standards Committee meeting. <i>ACTION</i> - Food T level student experience is good despite the low numbers with integration where this is possible and positive learning walk feedback. - Retention is going to be close to last year's retention figure, with the key focus on level 3 achievement, and the national data shortly available to benchmark against, which can be picked up at the next interim check point meeting.
1.4	The committee recorded its thanks to David Pearson as he steps down from his role as Chair of the Board and member of the committee.

Corporation Core Function Accountabilities	
2.	<b>Holding executive leaders to account for educational performance and quality of the college and the performance of staff</b>
2.1	<p>Student Report on Student Voice: SF provided an update from the student governors on their work on student voice linking with the quality team and student union activities. The aim is to enhance student voice engagement with consideration of using Teams notifications via ProMonitor. On apprenticeship engagement in student union and voice, this has been very strong this year with block release students all having SU induction talks booked in and with more visibility at the Reaseheath Engineering Apprenticeship Academy (REAA), with a bus pull RAG event this year. The committee thanked SF, IY and AH for all the work on student and apprenticeship engagement this year.</p>
2.2	<p>Quality Improvement and KPI Monitoring 2023-24: Assistant Principal JE presented a summary of the report and a full report had been provided in the papers. His presentation included the impact of the next phase of re-set, impact of interventions in 'requires improvement' areas and the teaching and learning support framework. The committee reviewed the quality improvement plan progress as part of the reporting and took assurance on good progress being made. The key points raised in discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance this year is a strong positive, down to the excellent work of the areas and the introduction of the attendance officers this year with a collaborative approach to working with students to improve attendance.</li> <li>- Impact evaluation of intervention shows positive impact: attendance remains strong; retention is currently above last year's position (with Level 3 carrying in an impact on Level 3 retention that needs to be considered); leadership presence in classrooms is increasing; there is greater focus on teaching and learning performance; leadership compliance has increased.</li> <li>- The biggest challenge is achieving consistency across college in the quality of teaching and learning, due to several factors including the high number of new staff. Therefore, more is being done to achieve this including supporting teachers with a coherent standard structure for all lessons and the introduction of a performance committee to ensure a closer link and clearer accountability to performance development review and management.</li> <li>- In 'requires improvement areas' there is very good progress in Equine, including at the out centres, Sport KPI monitoring suggests a positive direction of travel with the Sport link governor endorsing this picture from his recent link visits.</li> <li>- Foundation is at requires improvement at the current time with a review of the intent soon underway and reported to the next committee meeting. <i>ACTION</i>.</li> <li>- High Needs provision is good, with work ongoing on EHCP learner focus, with curriculum areas looking at the whole of the EHCP. Two recent governor link visits have been made to ensure understanding and oversight of this key area.</li> <li>- Academy of Land and Environment remains a key area for improvement, although retention in agriculture is below last year there is confidence that this is a more accurate picture and so achievement data this year should be better than last year. Whilst the department has moved on from last year, there is still much to do and there is increased leadership and support intervention including a Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) consultant who has been working closely with teachers using instructional coaching.</li> <li>- An increase in capacity of the quality assurance and quality improvement team was supported by the committee, with a new role Head of Teaching, Learning and Innovation. Discussion considered the teaching and learning staffing model at Sparsholt following the recent governor visit and assurance was given that there will be enough capacity in college's current model with these changes.</li> <li>- Assurance was provided that other areas remained on the radar, and there was an acknowledgement that more work is needed on written and as well as live feedback. The committee noted that the new lesson plans aid this, but it is a bigger piece of work on written feedback.</li> </ul>

	<p>- Next steps to support the student experience and quality of teaching and improved outcomes are timetabling changes; further development of new teaching and learning approach; review of capability to ensure it ties in with the new approach; exploration of Instructional Coaching platform; recommendation to executive team on AI use; national rates made available (end of March).</p> <p>- Reaseheath Ofsted guide has been provided to staff and a digital copy will be provided to governors.</p> <p><i>ACTION</i></p>
2.3	<p><b>RESOLVED: The committee reports its appreciation and support to staff for all the work done and still to be done in achieving consistent quality of teaching and student experience across the college and agreed that the priority this year is to achieve improved pass rates. Governors can support by giving this message in their link visits and the committee chair will note to thank staff and express the committee's support. ACTION</b></p>
2.4	<p>Student applications and recruitment report: Student numbers against targets were considered, presented by Vice Principal PS. He reported the allocation for next year and that at this stage the executive team are cautious but confident that there will be a more stable picture for next year, with apprenticeships expected to see growth, applications up again in several areas including Animal Management. The committee noted the policy issue around T levels but noted that applications for T level are currently up on last year. Ability to recruit technical staff remains a challenge in agricultural engineering where there is plenty of demand. The committee emphasised the importance of retaining students in the first 6 weeks and the executive team provided assurance this would be a key priority.</p>
2.5	<p><b>RESOLVED: The Committee reports it is assured that significant work is ongoing to maximise student recruitment for next year and it will monitor progress at the next checkpoint meeting In May.</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Setting, Communicating and Monitoring Strategy - Annual Strategic Plan Objectives</b>
3.1	<p>Strategic Risk Review: JS requested the committee to consider and report to Audit Committee on the following strategic risks: SR3: Quality of provision and student outcomes decline; SR5 Failure to meet employer skills needs and maintain key partnerships. A supporting paper was provided that evidenced the progress made with the Industry Skills Board introduced this year and attended by governors. The committee reviewed the actions reported in the meeting and the impacts seen so far and was encouraged by the green shoots on quality of provision and student outcomes. The committee supported keeping this as a high risk currently until clearer outcomes can be seen. supported the heightened risk score with good assurance at this early stage in the year that the actions are having positive impact, and this will be tracked by the committee in year. Several link governors' reports supported the good progress made by the Industry Skills Boards and the committee supported the executive view that this area of risk remains well managed.</p>
3.2	<p><b>RESOLVED: To report the committee's review of strategic risk within its remit to the Audit Committee.</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Governance</b>
4.1	<p>Impact Evaluation against Core Functions and TOR: The committee considered its meeting impact and reports the following to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting has provided impact reporting to help the committee and the board understand what is being done and what is needed to achieve improvement and how this will be measured, with the committee meeting again for an interim check point on progress on KPI retention, attendance, pass rates and achievement rates.</li> <li>- The link governor engagement summary report provides good evidence of continued active engagement in college life and supports the drive for improvement as well as triangulating reports and data received in formal meetings.</li> <li>- The committee has reviewed sections of the risk register that are relevant to the committee as requested by the Audit Committee and provides assurance to the Audit Committee on the mitigating actions in place for strategic risk quality of provision and student outcomes, with some encouraging signs at this stage in the year, but still with significant work to do. A presentation to the full board on this will be provided in the March meeting.</li> </ul>

<b>5</b>	<b>Closing items</b>
5.1	There was no other business reported to the meeting.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>RESOLVED: The date of the next formal meeting is Thursday 6 June 2024 at 2pm, but a Teams update meeting on progress against key performance and risk indicators provisionally booked for 2 May 2024 at 2pm (to be confirmed).</b>

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Approved as a correct record 6 June 2024

Jane Cowell, Chair