

CORPORATION OF KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE

Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2009 in Room 149 at 17.30 hours

- ST 382 Present** Karen Stevens Chair
Sonia Farnaby
Mark Garnier
Andrew Miller
Carol Warren
- ST 383 Quorum** 2
- ST 384 In Attendance** Andy Dobson Head of Quality & Information Services
Alan Hopkins Clerk to the Corporation
- ST 385 Apologies** Linda Pierce
- ST 386 Declaration of Members' Conflict of Interests**
No declarations made
- ST 387 Welcome**
The Chair welcomed Carol Warren to her first meeting of the Committee.
- ST 388 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2009, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chair.
- ST 389 Matters Arising**
No matters were raised
- ST 390 Teaching & Learning Observations 2008/09 Report**
Details had been circulated. Andy Dobson stated that the total of 119 observations was one more than previous years. The overall profile was continuing to improve, with the proportion of good or better teaching and learning at 76%. The target was to reach an 80% level.

In the OfSTED inspection, the inspectors found a strong correlation between the College's observations of individual teachers and their own findings. This tends to confirm the accuracy of the College's work. We also continue to benchmark our findings with the results set out in the Thames Valley University outcomes. This shows the College position being at least as good as the average.

Performance was strong in Foundation programmes, whilst real improvements have been recorded in ICT, Creative Industries and Sports programmes. The main area of concern is Business courses, which includes Accounts and Administration & Public Services. Here grades are mainly satisfactory.

It is clear there are very strong areas where good developments have taken place. There is still rebuilding to do of some staff teams and this will be a priority for the next academic year.

ST 391 Quality Improvement Plan – Monitoring Report March 2009

Details had been circulated. Andy Dobson explained that the content of the Report was driven by the College's Self Assessment process, improvement indicators agreed with the LSC and the OfSTED reports. It could be clearly seen that most items had been completed or were being progressed satisfactorily.

The Committee noted the Report.

ST 392 OfSTED Report – Final Version & Post Inspection Action Plan

Details had been circulated. The SMT were working on the preparation of the Post Inspection Action Plan. Different SMT members were being made responsible for producing Action Plans for specific areas of improvement.

Specific areas listed in the Report were: -

- a) Low success rates for adults in long level 2 and a few short courses.
- b) Inconsistency in the quality of target setting for individual learners.
- c) Underdeveloped analysis and evaluation of learners' destination and progression data.
- d) The development of the learner voice
- e) Insufficient promotion of equality & diversity through the curriculum.
- f) Insufficient promotion of literacy & innumeracy skills on some specific vocational courses.

Members of the Committee commented that they looked forward to seeing the various Action Plans once they had been completed.

ST 393 Cross College Standards & Targets 2008/09 - Spring Term Report

Details had been circulated. Andy Dobson commented that there were no "red" areas so that the Report was generally satisfactory. A question was raised with regard to whether the income shortfall on the catering operation should not be regarded as a red area. Andy Dobson stated that this needed to be clarified since including catering in the Estates section gave him doubts as to whether they could be held responsible for the financial performance of the external caterers.

The Report was noted.

ST 394 Framework for Excellence 2008 – 09 Grades

A Report had been circulated setting out the first set of College grades and scores for the 2008/09 version of Framework For Excellence. Andrew Miller stated that the information related to scores and grades for a number of key performance indicators. The information was not straightforward, though it could be interpreted as giving the College three good and three outstanding grades. However, no overall performance rating grade for the year would be made.

The LSC plan to confirm the content of the 2009/10 version of the scheme through a series of regional briefing events.

ST 395 Learner Withdrawal Analysis 2008/09 – Spring Term Report

Details had been circulated. Andy Dobson stated the position was similar to the previous year. There are some encouraging signs relating to the retention statistics on full time 2-year courses. It was felt that difficulties in the past in retaining students for a full 2-year period may be largely resolved.

Members noted the content of the Report.

ST 396 Any Other Business

No matters were raised

ST 397 Date of Next Meeting

Subject to Calendar of Meetings 2009/10.

The meeting closed at 19.15 hours

Chair _____ Date _____

23rd June 2009