

**RNN GROUP**  
**QUALITY AND STANDARDS**

***Minutes of the Quality & Standards Committee meeting held (via Zoom) on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 at 5pm***

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Catherine Witherington, Chair  
Catherine Burn  
Mirella Barnes  
Veronica Bruce-MacCoy  
Lyndsey Littlewood  
Jason Austin, Principal & CEO

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Maxine Bagshaw, interim Clerk to the Corporation  
Tracy Mace-Akroyd, Deputy CEO/Principal  
Claire Godfrey, Assistant Principal  
Cheryl Martin, Assistant Principal  
Angela Bates, Assistant Principal  
Lisa Wilson, Director of Apprenticeships  
Andy Birch, Head of HE  
Leanne Adams, Contracts Manager  
Sally Steadman, Director of Marketing and Learner Recruitment

		<b>ACTION by whom</b>	<b>DATE by when</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</u></b></p> <p>The Chair reminded everyone present to declare any interests on matters to be discussed. No specific declarations were made and standing declarations were noted.</p>		
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Andrea Chattaway.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020</u></b></p> <p>The minutes were reviewed and it was agreed that they were a true and correct record of discussions.</p> <p>AGREED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>ACTION PROGRESS REPORT</u></b></p>		

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_Chair

Date:

The Committee were happy to note the content of the update provided.

## 5 SAR AND QIP UPDATE

### 1) SAR

The Deputy CEO introduced this item and drew the Committees attention to page 30 onwards, and specifically the yellow highlights which give the current position. She indicated that the team would now review how this is taken forward in to 20/21 as it has become quite a large document given the expectation of an Ofsted monitoring visit. Key matters shared with the Committee were:

- There is a new innovative curriculum in place for Dearne Valley Campus and contractors are expected on site shortly.
- The college is focused on a phased return for students with wellbeing and safety being a priority.
- The EIF has been embedded and aligned. She confirmed that no stone has been left unturned and it has been a huge exercise in this regard. She described staff as having a really positive 'can do' attitude and, as a consequence, the college is well placed for September despite covid-19.
- The level of student engagement continues to be high.
- The college very much has a business as usual approach.
- Staff have really 'upped their game' and should be commended.
- Retention rates are high.
- Attendance has slightly dipped, however it is still good.
- A new English and Maths model has been agreed and this is something that will be shared with the Committee in more detail at its next meeting.
- The college is very much focused on Ofsted's three I's.
- The curriculum devised meets local and regional skills gaps.
- The college is supporting initiatives to overcome digital poverty in the area.
- The college continues to monitor subcontractor performance which is improving.
- At the time of lockdown, teacher challenge regarding student aspirations had started, however it is unclear what the exact impact will be.
- Behaviours and attitudes from learners who have returned to site, principally to undertake practical sessions, has been exemplary.

She confirmed that the college is very aware of its weak areas and she specifically referred to land based provision at Dinnington. She confirmed that there has been a complete review of the support structure and other aspects. She believes that the plans now in place will allow the college to make more significant improvements.

Deputy  
CEO

Sept.  
2020

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_Chair

Date:

In general discussion Governors all agreed that the SAR evidences a phenomenal amount of hard work from everyone at the college. It was confirmed that this has been a whole group effort and that the next step is to await evidence of impact before some of the judgements can be moved forward.

One member of the Committee asked what the college can learn from the positive learner attitudes seen upon returning to site. The Deputy CEO indicated that there have been a number of key component parts to this, including:

- The fact that staff have been very engaged in the return to site process,
- Very clear instructions were provided to students and staff,
- Learners returned very committed,
- There was real learner motivation in place and students should be given credit for this.

The Committee suggested that the learner experience team could capture the lessons learned as part of a project and undertake analysis. All agreed that this would help the college move forward for September.

The Committee were advised that staff completed a lot of work prior to lockdown, in terms of expectations with regard to attendance, behaviours etc. and that during lockdown the college saw the modelling of these expectations. All agreed that cultural capital was something that the college wants to instil in every learner and all agreed that this exercise, albeit undertaken on an involuntary basis, supports this. The Deputy CEO indicated that campus position statements also make this clear and particularly reference the fact that students had really gone above and beyond.

One member of the Committee made the observation that, in the student Covid survey results there was a small portion of staff and students either struggling or not engaged with online activity, and she asked whether this will be referred to in the SAR. The Deputy CEO indicated that this will be included in the next iteration of the QIP as part of the identified need/plan to develop tutors skills. She indicated that the college is introducing a personalised package regarding digital skills. There will be a base level expectation that all staff have to meet and then the college is hoping to move every member of staff up by one level.

## 2) QIP

The Assistant Principal reminded the Committee that, in March 2020 the decision was taken to split the judgements to in-year progress and focus on what was required to get to 'good'. She confirmed that all has now been judged to have been achieved and in some areas it is already possible to see a very positive impact on learners, these are shaded as green. If the college cannot yet see the full impact on the learner then it remains an amber.

Learner  
experience  
team

August  
2020

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She confirmed good progress in relation to:

- Embedding EIF,
- Curriculum planning,
- External support received from Grimsby and Dudley via the FEC/ESFA and other colleges sourced directly,
- Development of managers knowledge in relation to EIF and the holistic requirements of the curriculum,
- Information provided to Governors.

She indicated that, where 'reasonable progress' is stated, for most actions staff have aired on the side of caution because the full impact cannot quite yet be seen.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

## 6 **PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20**

The Assistant Principal introduced this item and confirmed that the data included is as at 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Key matters noted were:

- There is now no more teaching other than in a very small number of areas where students are finishing practical aspects,
- All assessment data has been submitted and the team are now pulling together predicted achievement rates,
- Retention is very strong and is 2% above last year. It might drop slightly in the next few weeks but that is not unusual.
- There are a few areas where there are risks e.g. Rotherham Campus in Construction and Engineering and Dinnington in relation to Animal Care.
- Programme for adults is strong. The position is the same as last year and was found to be good at inspection. There have been some staffing issues that the college has worked hard to resolve.
- HE engagement is strong and retention is high.
- Retention for apprenticeship provision is strong and +8%.
- High Needs position is very strong and better than 16-18. Retention is strong and the college is expecting achievement to be good as well.

A challenge from the Committee was that, in a number of areas staffing concerns and issues have been mentioned. They asked what the college is doing in relation to this and the plans in place. The Deputy CEO indicated that staffing issues in Engineering and Construction have already been addressed and included sickness and a difficulty in recruiting to certain posts. The position was resolved and the college now has a full staffing complement in place and is starting to see the impact. In relation to Animal Care there are still some concerns, particularly regarding long term sickness. The college is looking at a new structure when the offer moves to DVC. A challenge from the Committee was that staffing issues are within the colleges control and therefore the college must move quickly to address.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_Chair

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One member of the Committee noted the decline in learner numbers and asked what the impact was on funding. The Committee were reminded that 16-18 provision is lagged. It was acknowledged that there has been a reduction in student numbers over the last three years and it was explained that this was mostly to do with demographics, however there is also an element of a decline in market share. In relation to the latter, she confirmed that this was a focus for the marketing department. In relation to AEB, the expectation is that this will be static and in line with allocation.

The Committee asked whether the college expects to see an increase in adults given the current downturn in the economy. The Assistant Principal indicated that this was not expected and the position is anticipated to be static.

A question and challenge from one member of the Committee was that meeting performance outcomes is listed as a risk and they asked for an explanation as to how the quality of TLA is ensured and aligns with effective student learning. The Assistant Principal indicated that the deep dives really help with this and explained that the reviews are 'very deep but very narrow' e.g. Level 1 Brick and that, through the process there is an opportunity to speak to employers, learners and staff and that this then provides a whole view.

The Committee were advised that 22 deep dives have been completed since November 2019, one of which was online. The college used a risk-based approach to sequence these and the outcomes have allowed leadership interventions to be put in place. She indicated that the college has also looked at higher performing areas so that there is an opportunity to share best practice. In terms of student views, the college carries out formal surveys e.g. exit survey and an internal online survey regarding blended learning. In addition, the deep dives provide much more opportunity for powerful discussions with learners. She confirmed that there was an opportunity to speak to learners both in sessions and also between sessions and all information is correlated to inform changes.

In general discussion the CEO advised that there is currently an 'ask' to the ESFA to lift the current AEB restrictions to give more flexibility. In addition, the college is also working with local voluntary agencies to develop digital skills. One member of the Committee indicated that her organisation had been approached by DWP in relation to new programmes to be offered and there was perhaps the potential to collaborate with RNN group in relation to this.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

**7**      **SUMMER ASSESSMENTS 2020**

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The Assistant Principal introduced this item and confirmed that RNN group works with over 30 awarding bodies, all of whom have set different deadlines, guidelines and expectations regarding summer assessments. She indicated that it has had to be a really collaborative effort to pull the information required together and she specifically commended the exams team who are working really really hard, with good progress being made. She indicated that, for the vast amount of qualifications, teaching has now stopped so that assessments can be completed.

The Committee were advised that there are a small number of areas where the college will be unable to hit the deadlines required which will mean qualifications are not claimed until August 2020. These are:

- 1) Rotherham
  - Ckils – Level 2 and Level 3 Brick
  - EAL – Engineering
  - Cache – Level 2 and Level 3 Childcare and Level 2 STLS
  - VTCT VRQ's – Level 2 and Level 3 Hair & Beauty
  - Some short employability programmes
  
- 2) DVC
  - VTCT VRQ's – Level 2 and Level 3 Hair & Beauty
  - Certa – some Foundation/Flex provision
  
- 3) NNC
  - Certa – some Foundation/Flex provision
  - Level 2 and Level 3 Brick
  - Level 2 Joiner
  - Level 2 Plumbing
  - Level 2 Electrical
  - Cache – Level 2 and Level 3 Childcare

The Assistant Principal acknowledged that the college has a continuing duty to support learners regarding progress, and not just the qualification, and that this is more to do with knowledge, skills and behaviours.

The Assistant Principal advised that very good developments have been made to produce a new process to monitor the progress learners make during their studies. The process enables the accurate assessment of learners starting points, enabling their progress towards developing their powerful knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSB's) to be measured. It will enhance the well-established 'Target Aim Grade' process which monitors learners progress towards the achievement of their qualifications. She indicated that, if the college is able to really embed this, then it will be a sector leading set of processes.

A question from one member of the Committee was whether or not TAG is a product of the current situation i.e. opportunistic or something that

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was already in the pipeline. The Assistant Principal confirmed that it is something that the team have been talking about for some time but that it has taken some really careful thought as to how it could be achieved. She advised that the move to online learning and the partnership with CLearning has enabled the team to find a process. Some elements have been opportunistic and the current circumstances are allowing the college to undertake a pilot scheme.

A challenge from the Committee was that the aspiration is for the college to be known for the outstanding quality of its education and that this has to be at the heart of every initiative. The Assistant Principal confirmed that the college has been able, throughout the year, to show the impact by individual students and has really made progress in this area.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

## **8 CURRICULUM 2020/21**

The Assistant Principal introduced this item and confirmed that the report sets out the position in terms of the curriculum for 20/21. In terms of process, work in relation to this commenced right back in November 2019 with the introduction of the EIF, as this gave a firm footing upon which to develop the curriculum. A visioning day was held in December 2019 with a three phased approach, including blue sky thinking, practicalities and implementation.

The Committee were advised that there have been quite significant changes this year and, in terms of what's new, a summary was provided:

- Flex – renovation and evolution of the existing Foundation provision. Flex will offer learners who have High Needs 1 of 4 pathways tailored to suit their individual needs. Independent learning pathway, horizons pathway, supported and internship pathways.
- Steps – this is new vocational entry level provision that previously sat as a generic course within the Foundation department. For learners with social disadvantage and/or learning difficulties, but are ready to start the ladder to their chosen career. Steps provision is offered in all curriculum areas and will have some delivery supported by the Flex team. This is predominantly for students who want to pursue a vocational pathway but don't yet have the entry requirements.
- Employability Study Programme – this programme is designed for those learners who might have completed a Level 1 or Level 2 and require a transition year before moving to the next level in their chosen vocational area. This course will enable learners to develop their core skills such as English and Maths in order to be ready for the next level.
- HE Year 0 – this programme is intended to enable learners to overcome any existing barriers to Higher Education. The programme is designed for learners who would like to progress

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on to Higher Education courses but do not currently have the required UCAS points and/or English and Maths qualifications.

The Committees attention was also drawn to the list of new courses set out in the report, together with an explanation as to where provision will transfer following the closure of the Dinnington Campus.

The Committee then considered the outcomes of the curriculum review process and key matters noted were:

- Curriculum plans have now been frozen and the 20/21 budget is being finalised by finance.
- The college is planning a total of 3088 EFA funded learners. This includes 176 with partners. The college allocation is 3,002 so there are plans to exceed this to support growth moving forward. Each course has been challenged for realistic numbers based on previous years and applications.
- The college plans to meet its adult education budget, apprenticeship and advanced learner loan budget.
- The college has planned a total of 502 traditional HE learners which is a slight decline from 19/20 but in line with the reductions seen in applications and the uncertainty of the impact of the covid-19 crisis. She indicated that the college has taken a conservative approach to the numbers.
- The overall financial contribution for classroom based provision is 49%.
- The planning of the apprenticeship provision has undergone, for the first time, the same rigorous process as classroom based provision. The financial contribution of apprenticeships is still under review and aims to be finalised at the end of June 2020.

A question from the Committee was how agile and responsive the curriculum can be to local employer needs. The Assistant Principal indicated that, all programmes will be offered through a blended learning approach which means that the college is more flexible in terms of staffing and funding. She indicated that the college does not know, with any level of certainty yet, what will happen regarding study programme numbers and, if there is a significant increase, then the college would be looking for additional funding.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

## **9 CURRENT ENROLMENT POSITION FOR 20/21**

The Director of Marketing introduced a comprehensive report and provided an update in a number of areas:

- 1) Applications – she explained that the team are starting to look at this differently and in particular look at applicants rather than applications. The college has more applicants who are applying for a smaller number of courses i.e. with more certainty

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regarding what they want, which is different to previous years. She indicated that, it is known that some schools are behind in terms of student applications that we would expect and two in particular where careers advice has stopped since covid. The college is aiming to work with them to support in relation to IAG and the team are working to map applications and applicants to identify areas of focus. The Committee were advised that it is highly likely that there will be a surge in late enrolments this year with more walk ins. Employment position locally is not likely to be positive and therefore the college needs to be ready to respond to new enquiries from learners in July and August 2020.

She indicated that given the current circumstances it is very difficult to compare like with like as the market is just not the same. She indicated that the college is intending to do much more strategic marketing going forward.

The Director of Marketing advised that HE numbers are still slightly down and that there is less confidence that numbers will come through for HE. It is believed that some students are simply reluctant to commit to a loan.

She described the previous online enrolment process as a barrier for some learners and gave assurance that this has been changed and any glitches have been resolved. This is something that the team will continue to monitor carefully.

She advised that staff are still undertaking telephone interviews and the process is now much quicker and the belief is that there are higher rate offers being made much earlier than has been the case previously. She indicated that curriculum teams are managing the interviews really well and expressed the belief that there is a much slicker system now in place with the new recruitment team. She indicated that the number of enquiries is down but that this is likely to be situational.

- 2) Progressions – the expectation is that by the end of the month there will be circa 2,000 students confirmed/enrolled to progress. This is a really good position and these students will be set projects over the summer to make sure that they remain engaged. This means that there will be less pressure on the enrolment process in September.
- 3) School liaison and events – the college has committed significant resources and support to schools in this area and is seeing some very good dialogue open up with the schools. Large external events did take place prior to lockdown and leads arising from these still continue to be pursued.
- 4) Marketing – she confirmed that the intention is to continue pursuing the distance learning offer.

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- 5) Virtual open events – this has been organised through a microsite website. The facility is not live yet but the team are working on this. Information will be there all of the time and then there will be slots available for live Q&A. In terms of the sector she indicated that there was high online engagement reported from the early adopters of this system.
- 6) Podcasts – the college has created three episodes so far and these will be promoted throughout the summer. It is expected that the college can add another three podcasts to the series.
- 7) TV advertising – this will run for a period of 45 days in July and August via Sky. This is a trial for this year and will then be reviewed.
- 8) HE prospectus launch – the publication has been launched digitally and the hit rate has been comforting.
- 9) Dearne Valley College launch new land based and animal care courses for September 2020 – everyone will have an opportunity to follow the development work at DVC and then there will be a big reveal in August. This is quite an exciting initiative.

She confirmed that there will be FE and HE summer campaigns run and details of these were set out in the written report.

A question and challenge from the Committee was that, as the colleges core business is 16-18 it is interesting to note the position in relation to school engagement. In terms of the schools where there are lower than anticipated applicants these were described as a mix of academies and maintained. For some the block seems to be information, advice and guidance and therefore the college is looking to support this. The Committee were advised that one school in particular has indicated that this year is a higher performing cohort and therefore more are considering sixth form than has previously been the case.

The Committee considered appendix 1 and it was acknowledged that this does not include all schools in the catchment area. Those on the list are the core schools, however it was confirmed that the college is looking to broaden this.

The Committee asked whether the college has considered the use of Chatbox to add capacity. The Director of Marketing indicated that the college is currently looking at an online chat offer but will investigate Chatbox, however it was felt that personal responses rather than automated is the preferred approach for this year.

One member of the Committee asked whether there was data available in terms of apprenticeship starts and progression. The Director of

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Marketing confirmed that staff are currently working on this and therefore finalised data was not yet available. A challenge from the Committee was that this needs to be tracked alongside FE, particularly in terms of how things may change when compared to the prior year.

A question and challenge from the Committee was how the college will monitor and measure the impact of marketing campaigns. The Director of Marketing advised that it was not always a definitive single reason for enrolment/engagement, however she provided assurance that the team will track enquiries and applications so that there is a rich data source available. She advised that RCU data also tells the college where applicants come from. She indicated that there was lots more research that can be captured and that this will then influence campaigns for the future.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

#### **10 START OF THE YEAR ARRANGEMENTS 20/21**

The Deputy CEO introduced this item and confirmed that the college is very focused and actively working towards what September will look like, including:

- A focus on EIF,
- A focus on a blended approach which will be different for each area,
- September will look and feel different for students,
- The college is being very proactive,
- Students will be on site for less days than has previously been the case.

A challenge from the Committee was to continue to monitor the position as it may be that there are seasonal covid implications and/or a reoccurrence, spike etc.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

#### **11 APPRENTICESHIP REPORT**

The Director of Apprenticeships presented her detailed report and summary points provided were:

- Retention continues to be good,
- Impact of covid so far on retention is negligible,
- Where withdrawals have taken place the college has exhausted every option before withdrawal,
- Overall success rate predicted to be 65%, however this is subject to all learners passing their assessments and no further withdrawals,
- MLP is still poor,
- 37 Standards in place,
- 100% of new starts will be Standards rather than Frameworks,

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- Sequencing and planning has been completely redesigned,
- A significant number of learners on a break in learning due to covid, however the college remains confident that they will return,
- Increase in the number of learners who are out of funding,
- Really good results from the destinations survey,
- In terms of financial performance, the weak economic position has had an impact on income and led to a significant reduction. Capacity has enabled the college to refocus resources to support quality.

A challenge from the Committee was that, whilst they feel secure regarding the assertion of 'reasonable progress' they asked how Ofsted is likely to view the implications of covid. The Director of Apprenticeships indicated that the college can absolutely show a positive movement and that, whilst achievement rates are not yet where we want them to be, this to a certain extent is out of our control.

The Committee asked whether there was likely to be any Ofsted concessions given the covid-19 situation. The Committee were advised that no guidance has been provided yet and that what is important is to be able to demonstrate the impact for the current apprentices i.e. those enrolled since May 2019. One view expressed was that it is highly likely that an area of focus will be on what the deep dives show.

The Committee were advised that the ESFA are looking at coding in the ILR and it is possible that learners will be considered differently if they have been impacted by covid. It is also not anticipated that the QAR data will be published in March 2021 and therefore Ofsted will have limited data available for benchmarking.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

## 12 **SUBCONTRACTED PERFORMANCE**

The contracts manager introduced her written report and key aspects summarised were:

- There will be an increase from 3 to 4 subcontractors in 20/21,
- Predicted achievement is 94% for study programmes,
- Predicted achievement for adults is expected to increase,
- The number of subcontractors with AEB programmes will be reduced next year so that there can be greater certainty regarding quality, although there will be the same value of activity.
- In relation to apprentices, provision is not yet good and therefore the college has taken the decision to offer no new subcontract starts. All current apprentices are due to complete by December 2020.
- All but one of the AEB partners has continued to deliver remotely which is a real positive.

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- The college is currently checking all reopening risk assessments to ensure they are in line with expectations.
- The college is not yet sure that all partners can deliver blended learning of the high quality required and therefore CPD is to be offered.
- There is very positive learner feedback from the surveys undertaken.

The Committee were advised that there are some emerging concerns regarding the subcontract with Rotherham United and this is currently being investigated, however the college is confident as it can be that these learners will all achieve.

A challenge from the Committee was that quality has to be a key priority with all partners because of the potential risk for learners and reputation.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

### 13 HE REPORT

The Head of HE drew the Committees attention to his written report and key matters noted were:

- HE teaching has continued throughout lockdown via distance learning and on the whole has been well received.
- Staff and students have been able to continue with teaching and assessments.
- Validating universities have introduced a no detriment policy and as a consequence the college has been able to make some adjustments.
- Exam boards taking place this week and next and are likely to continue in to the summer
- Certain assessments may take longer to complete, however these are a small number.
- Retention is good and so the expectation is that achievement will also be good.
- A lot of work has been done this year with the MIS team on reporting data and the college has come a long way and now reports in line with OFS expectations. Data is known for minority groups, which aligns with the Access and Participation Plan.
- Retention in year at 93.68% is really strong. Retention multiyear is also strong. There have been a few dips in retention in certain pockets of provision, however this is mainly where there have been low numbers.
- The college is now able to disaggregate the data for discreet groups (OfS target groups) and BAME is one to watch, however there is no real underperformance for the groups.

In terms of recruitment he advised that:

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- Applications are down by 9%, however at the beginning of May 2020 this figure was 20% and therefore there is an improvement,
- Some curriculum areas are particularly down,
- Many HE institutions are predicting a downturn,
- There will be no impact to the college in terms of the international market.

In terms of expectations for 20/21 he confirmed that the college will be offering 'as usual', although delivery may look different.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

#### **14 TLA REPORT FOR 2019/20**

The Assistant Principal introduced this item and confirmed that there has only been one further deep dive undertaken since the last report and, on this basis, it was agreed that detailed discussions were not required. The Assistant Principal made reference to the learner online survey and indicated that, whilst the participation levels were low, the results specifically referring to online learning were encouraging.

In terms of the google training the number of staff who have now completed it is well above 50.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

#### **15 SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT REPORT**

The Assistant Principal introduced her written report and key matters noted/discussed were:

- This report provides an update on activity to support learners as a result of covid-19. She provided assurance regarding the arrangements in place for phased return, communication and guidance.
- Black Lives Matter – progress tutors have already embraced the opportunity to have conversations with learners around this movement and are developing content to be included within the curriculum for 20/21.
- The college continues to monitor the EdProtect online monitoring software and no red flags have been raised.
- EdAware is now available and will replace what the college currently has on Pro Monitor.
- Safeguarding referrals – the number of referrals has reduced. At the start of the year there were 40 learners and families across the group with social care involvement, however of these 21 plans have ceased in year. The college continues to support 6.
- Testing knowledge – a creative approach to engaging learners throughout the academic year has been developed as a method to develop learner safeguarding knowledge. Staff understanding

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is checked through scrutiny of safeguarding referrals and discussions in team meetings.

- Big White Wall has been a valuable addition to the safeguarding resources and a demonstration of this will be given to Governors early in the new academic year.
- KCSIE – an update has now been issued and the college will work through any implications and make the necessary changes to policies.

A challenge from one member of the Committee was that it is critically important that the college gets its safeguarding arrangements right, particularly with the move to an increased level of blended learning. The Committee questioned whether safeguarding training will be provided for the full Board and it was confirmed that it will at the same time as the Big White Wall demonstration.

One member of the Committee shared some emerging statistics from Nottinghamshire schools including:

- 100% increase in sadness,
- 51% increase in violence at home,
- 31% increase in loneliness

All agreed that given these emerging issues that the college needed to be very aware of increased need and challenges in September 2020.

AGREED: to note the content of the update provided.

(Catherine Burn left the meeting at 7.10pm)

## 16 POLICIES

The Assistant Principal presented two policies for Committee discussion.

- 1) Freedom of Speech – she explained that this policy has now been through an Equality Impact Assessment. This is not a new policy but instead is a refresh. A question from the Committee was whether or not the content is standard policy wording or bespoke to the college. The Assistant Principal explained that it has been written in conjunction with the prevent coordinator. A sector template has been used and then adapted for RNN requirements.
- 2) Safeguarding Policy – the Assistant Principal again confirmed that this was not a new policy and that it had been subject to an impact assessment. An annex in relation to covid-19 is an addition. She confirmed that the policy will be updated again to respond to the new KCSIE document issued this week. It was agreed that, if it is only a small change, there was no requirement to bring this back to Committee for discussion.

AGREED: to note and endorse the updated policies as presented.

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**COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The interim Clerk to the Corporation presented the written report and confirmed that this was an opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken by the Committee in the year and give consideration to whether any changes are required for next year. The Committee all agreed that the structure and the work plan needs a little bit more time to embed and therefore they were happy to roll forward existing arrangements and review again in the next academic year. All confirmed that they were happy with the broad structure.

The Deputy CEO indicated an intention to work with Governors to better understand the elements of the reports which have been most helpful so that they can be streamlined and duplication avoided.

The Committee did make the observation that the reports are lengthy and very detailed and that it would be useful to have shorter summaries but sitting alongside this opportunities for a deeper and more considerative approach for specific items.

One member of the Committee indicated that, upon reviewing the terms of reference it may be that are a number of areas where it was not entirely clear that the committee was completely fulfilling the expectations, these are:

- Link directly with an area of the group,
- Participating in self-assessment processes,
- At 4.10 reviewing the performance of the college against the national position.

The Deputy CEO indicated that every report presented to this Committee links in to the self-assessment process and that every report, where possible, provides benchmarking data so that a comparison can be undertaken.

**AGREED:**

- a) To note the content of the update provided,
- b) Approve the committee work plan for 20/21 as presented,
- c) Recommend to the Board that there be no changes to the terms of reference for 20/21,
- d) Recommend to the Board that membership of this Committee for 20/21 should be Catherine Witherington, Catherine Burn, Mirella Barnes, Veronica Bruce-McCoy, Jason Austin, Lindsey Littlewood and Katie Curtis.

The Committee all agreed that there was still an element of work to do in terms of refinement but agreed that they were happy to roll forward existing arrangements.

**AOB**

There were no items of additional business.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Chair

Date:



**19**      **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The interim Clerk to the Corporation confirmed that the full calendar of meetings for the year is scheduled for discussion at the July Board meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_Chair

Date: